FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AMADO ANNOUNCES CONTADORA MEETING POSTPONED

PA201901 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1826 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Panama City, 20 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado today announced that the Central American and Contadora Group foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for Thursday has been postponed at Guatemala's request.

Amado explained that the new Guatemalan foreign minister, Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran, told him he has scheduled a tour through Central American countries, and asked Amado to postpone the meeting in Panama until he ends his consultations.

The Panamanian foreign minister added that the request was accepted, and that he immediately conferred with his Contadora Group counterparts (Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia) to establish a new date.

Amado said that possibly by Monday he would know when the third meeting between Central America and Contadora Group foreign ministers will be held, and added that it would probably be during the first half of September.

In a statement to international journalists some days ago, the Panamanian foreign minister had said that the purpose of this meeting "was basically to discuss the four points derived from what was called the second meeting's working document, issued in Panama."

Amado added that "the complementary documents for these points have been prepared" and the main task is to seek further agreement on those aspects on which the Central American countries still disagree. The foreign minister did not give details about the disagreements.

CARICOM ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA200211 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2124 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Kingston, 18 Aug (EFE) -- Jamaica and the 12 other members of the economic community of Caribbean English-speaking countries -- CARICOM -- fully support the efforts of the Contadora Group to restore peace in Central America.

This assertion was made in Kingston by Hugh Shearer, Jamaican deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, while addressing a group of representatives of the Contadora Group here. Shearer told the diplomats that the position of his country and that of its counterparts in CARICOM is based on the point of the Cancun Declaration referring to the need to improve consultation methods, to strengthen the democratic political institutions, and to promote economic and social development.

The Jamaican foreign minister met with Venezuelan Ambassador Luis Echeverria, Panamanian Ambassador Jaime Ramirez, Colombian Charge d'Affaires Humberto Gallego, and Mexican Embassy Chancellor Alfonso Duarte, whose countries comprise the Contadora Group. Shearer spoke on behalf of CARICOM, which is composed of Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Guyana, Belize, St Lucia, Antiqua, St Vincent, Dominica, Montserrat, Bahamas, and St Kitts-Nevis.

In their most recent meetings, the CARICOM foreign ministers have reiterated their support of the Contadora Group, whose position has also been endorsed by the leaders of the English-speaking countries in the area.

Shearer told the diplomats that "it is necessary to improve popular consultation methods to ensure free access to the various currents of opinion." He added that citizens must be allowed "full participation" in the political life of their countries if a peaceful political solution to the problems causing tension in Central America is to be found. In conclusion, Shearer reiterated CARICOM's support for the Contadora Group opinion that the problems in the region are not caused by the East-West conflict, as the United States contends.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Ambassador Echeverria thanked the Jamaican Government and the other CARICOM countries for their support and promised to keep them informed of developments and the efforts being undertaken by the Contadora Group.

C.A., PANAMANIAN HEALTH MINISTERS MEET IN PANAMA

Jorge Illueca Opens Meeting

PA191220 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Inaugurating the 28th meeting of health ministers of Central America and Panama, Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca said that the governments should invest their economic resources in the health field rather than in military activities. The meeting was inaugurated this morning at the Marriot Hotel. Panamanian Health Minister Gaspar Garcia de Paredes delivered the welcoming speech.

Nicaraguan Minister Scores U.S.

FL192130 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Minister of Health Lea Guido accused the U.S. Government of committing an offense against the Nicaraguan people by halting loans earmarked for assistance in her country.

During the annual meeting of Central American health ministers in Panama, Guido said that notwithstanding that situation, Nicaragua is spending 10 percent of its national budget on health-related assistance.

(Carmen de Guerra), the representative of the Pan-American Health Organization, stated that the economic crisis is the greatest difficulty facing the countries of the region in implementing medical programs. (De Guerra) said that another problem was the high cost and complexity of equipment.

L.A. SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETS IN RIO

Pena Gomez Peace Proposal

PA201500 Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 19 Aug (AFP) -- Jose Francisco Pena Gomez of the Dominican Republic today presented a peace proposal for Central America that includes the demand for bilateral dialogue between Cuba and the United States.

The presentation was made in Rio de Janeiro during the opening session of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pena Gomez, president of the committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, said that "the solution to the Central American crisis calls for a bilateral Cuban-U.S. dialogue, because as long as there is no peace between these two nations, there will be no peace and tranquillity in the region."

According to the current mayor of Santo Domingo, his proposal includes four points, the first of which calls for the "United States to end its support for the counterrevolutionaries, withdraw its military advisers, and end its support for the political right in the region."

Also, he added, the U.S. must understand that "it will have to accept the existence of democratic regimes and counterrevolutionaries [as received] as long as these do not endanger U.S. security."

The second point in Pena Gomez' proposal concerns Cuba, stating that "it must also withdraw its military advisers and practice the policy of self-restraint, refraining from offering material support to the revolutionary movements of the region."

In the third point of his proposal, Pena Gomez states that "Nicaragua, once the aggression against its territory and U.S. economic pressure have ended, must fulfill to the letter the promise to hold free elections, as well as practice a policy of nonalignment that will permit coexistence with the United States."

The fourth and final point of the Pena Gomez proposal, regarding El Salvador, states that it should hold free general elections, reserving a role for the opposition, including the FMLN-FDR.

Nicaraguan Delegate Cited

PA211847 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Excerpt] The Nicaraguan representative to the meeting of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, Fernando Cardenal, charged, in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, that the U.S. Government intends to destroy the Sandinist revolution.

Cardenal said that the situation in Central America is growing worse daily and stressed that Nicaragua needs the support of all Latin American nations to confront the imperialist aggression. He asserted that elections will be held in Nicaragua in 1985 and that the government is already reviewing the law on political parties. He said this is a promise the Sandinist revolution made to the people, and it will keep it.

CROWD HOLDS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST AMNESTY LAW

PY201748 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2320 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Aug (NA) -- Today a crowd of approximately 40,000 people took part in a demonstration in this capital in repudiation of an amnesty law to be approved by the current government. The demonstration was held in front of the National Congress, where a document was read. Slogans rejecting the draft law under study by government officials were also heard.

Police sources reported that 14,000 to 15,000 people participated in the demonstration, but explained that "it is difficult to calculate because the demonstration was widely spread." The sources also admitted that "those associated with the organizers said that more than 40,000 people participated." The demonstrators, headed by 1980 Nobel Peace Prize winner Rodolfo Perez Esquivel, relatives of missing persons, and political leaders, marched without incident for approximately 15 blocks from Cordoba and Cerrito Streets to Congress Plaza.

FEDERAL JUDGE INDICTS FORMER NAVY COMMANDER

PY200102 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2052 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Aug (DYN) -- Federal Judge Jose Nicasio Dibur tonight ordered that former Navy Commander Admiral Emilio Massera, retired, be prosecuted for his involvement in the crimes committed by the terrorist organization Triple A [Argentine Anticommunist Alliance], and reserved for tomorrow a ruling on a request for exempting Massera from imprisonment.

Judge Dibur made his decision after questioning Massera this afternoon on detentions made at one time by Navy personnel from the Navy Mechinical School. Massera's attorney, Jaime Cordoba Carmona, has requested that his client be exempted from imprisonment. The request is now being studied by the attorney general, and the judge is expected to rule on the request by 1000 tomorrow.

Massera Questioned on Disappearances

PY202015 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1612 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Aug (DYN) -- Admiral Emilio Massera, former commander of the Navy, left the court building at approximately 1310 after testifying for 3 hours before Federal Judge Jose Dibur in relation to the investigation of the activities of the Triple A and disappearances in the Navy Mechanics School. Massera was taken from the court back to the Buenos Aires Naval Base, where he is being held at the disposal of Federal Judge Oscar Salvi in relation to the case of the disappearance of businessman Fernando Branca.

MINISTRY, CGT, BISHOPS ADJOURN UNTIL 23 AUG

PY192042 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] In a press communique that was disseminated last night, the Interior Ministry reported that during the meeting held yesterday between the economic cabinet, members of the Episcopate's Social Pastoral Team, and leaders of the General Confederations of Labor, the proposals that were duly submitted to the national government were analyzed in an open and frank atmosphere.

The union leaders and the members of the economic cabinet agreed to implement the necessary measures to create an atmosphere of tranquillity for the country's institutionalization, according to the Interior Ministry.

In conclusion, the Interior Ministry reported that the bishops were invited to participate with business leaders in another meeting at 1600 on Tuesday to continue the discussions. The Interior Ministry added that the possibility of holding a larger meeting on Thursday with the participation of union leaders, businessmen, and workers is also foreseen.

Unions Declare 25 Aug Deadline

PY200315 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] Both branches of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) yesterday set a one week deadline for the government to meet their demands of wage increase and prompt changes in the socio-economic policy. Meanwhile, the government released a statement saying that it had agreed with union leaders to adopt the necessary measures to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy.

CGT leaders met at Government House yesterday with five cabinet members to discuss the measures necessary to avert a general strike and possible violent social unrest. This meeting was arranged and attended by members of the Church social pastoral work team.

Saul Ubaldini, secretary general of the Brasil street branch of the CGT (CGT-RA), said on leaving Government House that next Thursday would be the last day for the "military regime to provide answers to our just claims."

Jorge Triaca, head of the CGT-Azopardo, said for his part that the labour unions would resort to strike action unless the government meets their demands. Union sources said that at the meeting the CGT called for an immediate wage increase and monthly ajustments surpassing the inflation level.

The Government House statement added that the Church team and business groups had been invited to a similar meeting next Tuesday, while suggesting that there could be a four-party meeting -- including the government, the church team, the CGTS, and businessmen -- on Thursday.

JUSTICE MINISTER ON PERON, AMNESTY, SUBVERSION

PY190410 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2025 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Aug (TELAM) -- Today Justice Minister Lucas Lennon stated that former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron is legally disqualified from holding both public and political posts. The minister asserted that for this reason the upcoming national congress of her party will not be valid if she should decide to preside over it.

Moreover, the minister disclosed that the Justice Ministry will study a draft bill to modify the court procedures with the purpose of expediting trials held in federal courts concerning subversive activities.

In statements made to the media at the Metropolitan Cathedral, after a ceremony of homage to General Jose de San Martin on the occasion of the anniversary of his death, Lennon stated that it is a new procedural law for judging subversive and terrorist activities.

He pointed out that the new measures under study do not create any special court, nor do they create a new classification for this type of crime.

When asked his judicial opinion on the amnesty or pacification draft bill, he said that one could not pass a judicial judgment on this subject, that it should be a political opinion because, in any case, it is a political issue. Regarding the former president's situation, he stated that the ruling of the court that tried her disqualified her from holding any public or political post.

When mention was made of rumors on the former president's return to the country, and the intentions of the Justicialist Party leaders for her to preside over the party's national congress on 3 September, the minister stated: "She will not be able to do this since the court has disqualified her, and if she still does so the party's congress will lack all validity." Lennon pointed out that the only way for this legal measure to be lifted would be for the Military Junta or the national executive branch to eliminate the sentence against the former president.

Regarding the draft bill which modifies court procedures in order to expedite trials dealing with subversive and terrorist activities, the minister pointed out that to draw it up they have taken into account the experience of our country and others. One of the things considered is the operation of the dissolved special chambers for penal crimes within the jurisdiction of federal courts.

Lennon stated that he could not yet state when this law will be approved but they will try to do so as soon as possible.

Regarding the amnesty or pacification law, he pointed out that it is still being analyzed by the Armed Forces and that they are continuing consultations in order to draw up a text which will comprise all points of view.

Lennon said that there are opinions against and in favor of that law, and pointed out that any judgment made regarding this law should not be of a judicial nature but a political nature, because we are engaged in a pacification process which should be helped by the proposed amnesty law.

HE KANG, PRC DELEGATION END TALKS, SIGN ACCORD

PY192155 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Argentina and the PRC have agreed to strengthen bilateral relations. The agreement, which was signed by Argentine Agriculture Secretary Victor Hugo Santirso and He Kang, PRC minister of agriculture, animal husbandry and fishery, closes a series of talks held by the authorities of the two countries aimed at reviewing bilateral relations in general and the agriculture and livestock fields in particular. The objective of the meetings was to evaluate the current state of relations and analyze the possibilities for improving them.

The PRC delegation also held meetings with authorities of other sectors in order to find out in which fields they could strengthen relations between the two countries.

'OFFICIAL SOURCES' DISCLOSE NEW CABINET

PY220346 Paris AFP in Spanish 1628 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] La Paz, 21 Aug (AFP) -- Current Defense Minister Jose Oritz Mercado will be the new Bolivian foreign affairs minister and will assume that office tomorrow, Monday, along with the rest of the new cabinet, according to official sources in La Paz. AFP has been able to learn that the new cabinet will not include leaders of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), postponing, in this way, the possibility of a co-government between the labor group and President Hernan Siles Zuazo.

Instead, the chief of state will propose to the COB the formation of a permanent commission that will coordinate the programs of the labor organization with those of the government front, the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP).

The COB had proposed, as part of its program, labor control of large private companies, a moratorium on payments of the external debt, rejection of the impositions of the IMF, and the recision of contracts with two international oil companies, proposals which were apparently rejected by the chief of state.

The DDP is currently composed of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNR-I) of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, the Christian Democratic Party (DC), and the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party (PCB). Two weeks ago the other component party of the UDP, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) of Vice President Jaime Paz Camora, resolved not to participate in the cabinet; thus its absence from the government front.

It was learned, finally, that Deputy Manuel Cardenas Mallo will occupy the position of interior minister or national defense minister.

The Bolivian Communist Party (pro-Soviet), will continue in the ministries of mines and labor, and the Christian Democratic Party will increase its number of ministers from one to two.

MNRI DISSIDENTS DEMAND DECISION FROM SILES

PY191745 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Aug 83

[By Emilio Crespo]

[Text] La Paz, 18 Aug (EFE) -- If Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo had some problems with the appointment of a new cabinet, he now has a lot of them with the attacks he is being subjected to by members of his party [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left, MNRI] The uncertainty that surrounds Bolivian political life in view of the lack of a cabinet increased today as a result of a letter that was issued and signed by about 20 important members of the ruling party. The letter which is published in the La Paz newspaper HOY charges that the regime "does not implement any well-defined or coherent policies" and it alleges that drug trafficking "has increased in the last few months." This letter issued by fellow party members only adds to Siles' problems since at this time the president is under pressure from the business and labor sectors regarding the appointment of a new cabinet.

Among those who signed the letter are five members of the resigning (but still in office) cabinet, in addition to the former MNRI secretary general, Mario Velarde, who a little while after the letter was issued said that no "hasty" decision was involved in issuing the letter; "it has been discussed for several months and it states the whole truth."

During a press conference, Velarde noted that the letter, which is addressed to Siles, does not mean that there are dissident groups or movements within the MNRI, but no one seems to believe him. Velarde regretted the "delay" in government decisions and noted that the president must immediately answer the proposals included in the letter. Presidential Secretary Horacio Torres, who is not among those who signed the note, said that this letter will be studied by the party.

The new dissidents of the MNRI, which has split up in several factions which up to now have not been able to reunite themselves, also charged that there is a plot against the leftist coalition in power and against democracy. The signatories of the letter noted that in order to confront this plot, the government should implement coherent measures, and they also suggested the adoption of socioeconomic measures and specific actions against drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, the president has not issued a single word about the letter that was delivered to him yesterday, and he seems to be involved in organizing a new cabinet.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF U.S. EMBASSY

PY201208 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpts] The day of protest against U.S. intervention in Central America, which was organized by the Federation of High School Students [FES], developed peacefully according to student leader (Raul Maidana). (Maidana) stated that the Bolivian students are aware that the Central American people's struggle for their liberation deserves the solidarity of all Latin American countries.

Moreover, he said that the students' federation supports the proposal for comanagement and the Bolivian Labor Federations' proposal as the only solution to the country's political and economic problems.

In answering questions on the objective of the demonstration, (Raul Maidana) stated: [Begin Maidana recording] All the high school students decided to gather today for an anti-interventionist and anti-imperialist demonstration to repudiate U.S. interference in Central America and especially in Nicaragua. In this regard, we students are fully aware that we belong to the people and that we have participated in this democratic process to recover our freedoms, and we are aware that we have to confront a main enemy, that is, Yankee imperialism.

In this regard, we cannot accept Reagan's [word indistinct] position, therefore we have taken to the streets and have come to the U.S. Embassy to protest the shameless attack on our Nicaraguan brothers, our Central American brothers, who struggle for freedom, who struggle against oligarchies and who want to establish a society free of suffering. [end recording]

The student demonstration did produce some damage such as broken window panes caused by some demonstrators who hurled objects at the U.S. Embassy building.

[Begin Maidana recording] Yes, we are aware that some incidents took place this morning during the demonstration. We deeply regret them, but we are not responsible for them. There are some youth political sectors interested in attracting the students and, naturally, this morning they took advantage of our demonstration. They infiltrated themselves, (?divided us) to the point of almost creating a clash between the students. This is not the responsibility of the FES, but of some political groups that are interested in recruiting more members [words indistinct]. We condemn this and point out that this was the reason for the incident which took place in front of the U.S. Embassy where we were staging a peaceful demonstration [words indistinct]. [end recording]

PMDB DEPUTY CALLS FOR RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PY192147 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1926 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Aug (EFE) -- Deputy Freitas Nobre, leader in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies of the largest opposition party, has criticized the government's reluctance to resume relations with Cuba. Nobre, of the "Brazilian Democratic Movement Party" [PMDB], stated that the severing of relations with Cuba has been "one of the worst failures of the Brazilian foreign policy." According to the PMDB leader, the Brazilian Government must stop giving the "ideological excuse" that "Cuba is an extremist country," invoked some 20 years ago when, in 1964, the military authorities broke relations with the Havana regime after a successful coup d'etat. "The arguments which had led to the rupture of relations are no long valid. At that time we had been so dependent on the United States that we agreed to join the hateful boycott imposed on a small brotherly nation which had overthrown a dictatorial government," the deputy added. Nobre stated that the ideological excuses are no longer justified because Brazil now has a pragmatic foreign policy which pursues relations and trade with the Soviet Union and the PRC. Brazil was also the first nation to recognize Angola's Marxist regime. "We cannot refuse giving a hand to our brethren from Central America who have never surrendered to the brutal and inhumane seige which has been closed all around it," Nobre stated. In his remarks, the PMDB leader also referred to the recent interest in resuming relations with Brazil expressed by Cuban President [title as received] Fidel Castro to four PMDB congressmen who visited Havana.

PLANNING MINISTER TO EUROPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS

PY191700 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Aug 83 p 17

[Excerpts] Brasilia — Planning Minister Delfim Netto flew to Paris last night where he will try to carry out two important tasks: to convince IMF Director Jacques de Larosiere (who is vacationing in Geneva, Switzerland) to give the "green light" for Brazil to begin negotiations on the country's foreign debt with foreign banks, and to make contacts with the Paris Club in order to reschedule the $7 to $8 billion government-to-government debt. Finance Minister Ernane Galveas confirmed yesterday that Minister Netto would travel to Europe to meet with Larosiere: "We continue to negotiate and since the man is in Europe, Netto went there." As for Brazil's contacts with the Paris Club which he considers as "another chapter," Minister Galveas admitted that Brazil may take advantage of this trip to initiate such contacts. An assistant of Minister Netto stressed that the planning minister will make contacts with European bankers to negotiate a new jumbo loan for $3 or $4 billion in order to close with an even balance of payments this year.

Cuts Tour Short

PY191811 Paris AFP in Spanish 1638 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Paris, 19 Aug (AFP) -- After meeting with IMF Director General Jacques Larosiere today, Planning Minister Antonio Delfim Netto decided to cut short his European tour and return to Brazil tomorrow. Netto, who had plans to conduct negotiations on Brazil's foreign debt in Paris, London, and Frankfurt, did not explain the change in plans, but did not conceal his pleasure over the meeting with Larosiere. The meeting was surrounded in secrecy on both the Brazilian side and the IMF side. The Brazilian minister arrived in Paris yesterday, where he had planned to conduct negotiations with financial circles for a week.

1,000 EXILES GRANTED PERMISSION TO RETURN

PY200011 Paris AFP in Spanish 2301 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 19 Aug (AFP) -- It has been officially reported that the Chilean military government today released a new list of 1,000 names of exiles who will be allowed to return to the country, including Christian Democratic Party leader and ideologist Jaime Castillo Velasco. This report was released by Interior Ministry Under Secretary German Gardeweg and, according to the report, this is the eighth such list released by the government.

Since the first list, released in December 1982, more than 500 exiles have returned to the country, most of whom are dissidents opposed to the government of President Augusto Pinochet. The Chilean Catholic Church claims that there are more than 70,000 Chilean exiles abroad, while the Chilean Human Rights Commission estimates at 200,000 the number of Chileans in that situation.

FINANCE MINISTER ON FOREIGN DEBT RENEGOTIATION

PY211635 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Economy Minister Andres Passicot said during a press conference that some people have distorted the issue of the foreign debt renegotiation. Passicot began by underscoring the importance of the agreements signed with the IMF and with the international banking community.

[Begin recording] As you know, some weeks ago the country fortunately signed an agreement with the IMF and another with the international banking community. Based on the two agreements, I stated to you some days ago that the country had no problems with the balance of payments. I want this issue to be well understood. When we or I say that the country has no problems with its balance of payments, I mean that we have enough funds not only to maintain the level of activities of 1982 but also to finance a moderate recovery of the economy over the next 16 months. [end recording]

The minister said that the funds should serve to attain a moderate recovery of the economy. He added: [Begin recording] I have been very much surprised at the fact that in spite of this concrete reality some people have said that the balance of payments situation was critical and that it had not improved at all. And I have also been very much surprised at the way in which the process to normalize the foreign debt situation has been criticized.

I was surprised, for example, at people calling the bank that headed the renegotiation a speculator because it obtained $26 million. As you know, speculator is a pejorative word that is not at all applicable because this bank organized the renegotiation with the international banks, which as you know numbered more than 300. [end recording]

Passicot made it clear that Manufacturers Hannover Bank was paid $3 million in commissions and other expenses. An additional sum of $16 million was paid in commissions and other administrative expenses to the 300 international banks that participated in the renegotiation of the foreign debt.

Passicot also said that the government gave a guarantee for $6 billion, adding that this amount is one-third of the foreign debt amount and not the total as some sectors have said.

He also said that the interest rates were the best that could be obtained taking into account Chile's position on the international financial market.

On referring to those who have criticized the renogotiation, Passicot said: I know some of them. They are people who have never settled their accounts, held a current account, nor renegotiated a loan to buy a bicycle. Passicot also said that it is not accurate information that the country will pay $37 billion in financial obligations over the next 9 years. He told those who worked out this figure that they had applied an inadequate international interest rate, adding that they had made the mistake of including payments for insurance and freight.

Passicot later stressed that Chile has no problems with its balance of payments for either 1983 or 1984, adding that the country is capable of meeting its obligations in 1985. He also expressed his belief that in the extreme situation of having to renegotiate the foreign debt again, the international banking community would react as positively as it has just done.

As regards the 10 billion peso credit line that was announced by the finance minister, Passicot said that to apply for the loans, employers must submit the last monthly payroll to commercial banks. The banks will grant them a loan for 10 percent of the salaries, which will be reimbursed over 1 year with a 5 percent monthly interest.

PINOCHET SEES DEMOCRACY AFTER CAREFUL PLANNING

PY191658 Paris AFP in Spanish 1146 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Cauquenes, 19 Aug (AFP) -- Chile will return to democracy after carefully mapping out a plan, President Pinochet said last night at the start of a 3-day tour through several southern cities. Speaking during an official ceremony in Cauquenes, 500 km south of Santiago, Pinochet asserted that we have a road which has been laid down precisely.

We can now be confident that we are going to reach full democracy along the appropriate road, President Pinochet added in an apparent reference to the Constitution promulgated 3 years ago which extended his term of office until 1989. However, after the latest national protest day, new Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa announced the possibility of holding a plebiscite to amend the Constitution and to advance the date for congressional elections now scheduled for 1990.

PINOCHET DEFENDS MEASURES TAKEN ON 11 AUG

PY201626 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Relay from Parral by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] Had the government not taken preventive measures, Santiago would have gone up in flames on 11 August as a result of the protest day incidents. This was stated by President Pinochet, who ended his visit to the 7th region where he was declared illustrious son of the cities of Linares and Parral.

In thanking the [word indistinct] sector of Linares for his appointment as illustrious son, President Pinochet referred to the government's unwavering determination to declare a real war against [words indistinct]. He pointed out that whatever the government does is aimed at improving the nation.

GOVERNMENT OFFERS PLAN FOR FUTURE PROTESTS

PY190405 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0007 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 18 Aug (EFE) -- Today the Chilean Government announced that it is willing to withdraw the forces of order during future peaceful protests which may take place in the country. Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa stated that this measure will be implemented so long as those organizing the demonstrations publicly assume responsibility for whatever may happen.

The minister admitted that "peaceful protests are in keeping with what Chilean policy has always been accustomed to. What we wish to avoid is vandalism and the death of persons who, generally, are not participating in these acts."

Jarpa acknowledged the right to organize in order to defend homes, neighborhoods, and the peace, and added "that no acts of violence will take place wherever the civilians are organized and prevent the interference of foreign persons."

When he was asked whether the announcement of the withdrawal of the Army meant the acknowledgement of its responsibility for the events which took place on 11 and 12 August, Jarpa answered that "the Armed Forces and Carabineros have never fomented violence." He added that "it is absurd to believe that the government orders those in charge of maintaining public order to carry out acts of violence. Violence is generated by those groups of civilians we all know are trying to lead the country to an internal confrontation."

Jarpa asserted that "the government may withdraw the forces of order if those who organize the protests publicly assume the responsibilities as well as the damages and attacks on persons which may take place. Therefore, it will be quite clear that the responsibility is theirs." The minister continued, saying that "if they do not assume the responsibility, the government will certainly guarantee order and the defense of the peoples' rights."

The minister stated that he had still not been in contact with leaders of the opposition, but that he could do so later on "so long as there is good will on the part of all the interested parties."

According to the newspaper LA SEGUNDA, negotiations for a rapprochement between the government and the opposition are already underway with the participation of the Catholic Church, which is represented by Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno who stated that "he was willing to do anything in order to establish a dialogue" between the two parties.

The newspaper added that one of the conditions established by the opposition is the establishment of a dialogue with the Democratic Alliance coalition and not with separate persons or groups.

The National Development Project (PRODEN) has pointed out that it will address a letter to the interior minister pointing out some steps to be taken before starting a dialogue. Some of these conditions are the recognition of the political leadership, the investigation of deaths which took place during the fourth national protest, the reinstatement of workers and labor union leaders, derogation of the state of emergency, the lifting of bans on the opposition sector, and freedom of information.

COMMUNIST LEADER SAYS PINOCHET TOTALLY ISOLATED

PA192328 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Volodia Teitelboim, member of the political committee of the Communist Party of Chile, has said in Moscow that President Pincohet is now totally isolated and that the tyrant has become an obstacle even to the transnationals and the U.S. State Department which supports him.

HAVANA MEETING BACKS ANTI-PINOCHET STRUGGLE

FL201815 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] (Christian Gonzalez Toro), president of the Chilean Committee in Solidarity With the Antifascist Resistance, has called on all democratic and progressive governments, international organizations, and prominent people of the world to support the Chilean people in their struggle against the Pinochet regime. He was addressing the ceremony commemorating the 205th anniversary of the birth of Bernardo O'Higgins, patriarch of Chile, held at the main offices of the Chilean Committee in Havana.

The ceremony, arranged in coordination with the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples, was attended by several diplomatic representatives accredited to our country and representatives of Latin American organizations. (Christian Gonzalez) demanded the right of Chileans to return to Chile without preconditions to continue the struggle for the final liberation of that nation.

HAVANA CITES INCIDENT BETWEEN POLICE, STUDENTS

PA192326 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The fascist Chilean regime's police used teargas to attack students participating in an assembly held at the Catholic University in Valparaiso, a port city in Chile. According to newscasts, the policemen cordoned off the university area while hundreds of students meeting inside climbed to the building's top floor, where they hung placards with slogans repudiating Augusto Pinochet's regime.

MEASURE GRANTS ACCESS TO COPPER UNION ACCOUNTS

PY192034 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] A measure authorizing the copper unions to handle the funds in their bank accounts has been well received by labor leaders. Labor Ministry sources announced that the Labor Administration has authorized access to the bank accounts of those CODELCO [Copper Corporation] unions which were unable to use them after some of their executives were dismissed from their posts, thus preventing use of the joint accounts.

State Councilman Guillermo Medina said this about the measure: [Begin Medina recording] I believe that the Labor Administration is now authorizing unions to continue operating through the adoption of a positive measure which reveals the government's good will. [end recording] Rodolfo Seguel, president of the Copper Workers Confederation, said that the Labor Ministry has adopted a correct measure at a delicate moment for the labor movement in Chile, adding that this is a just attempt to find solutions for the confederation's problems.

FARC RELEASES KIDNAPPED U.S. CITIZEN WOOD

PA192328 Paris AFP in Spanish 2222 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 19 Aug (AFP) -- RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional], a private radio station, today reported that Catherine Wood Kirby, a 63-year-old U.S. citizen who was kidnapped by guerrillas in southeastern Colombia on 7 April, has been released following the payment of a large ransom.

The report, which has not been confirmed here by the Colombian authorities or the U.S. embassy, states that Wood's release occurred on Monday near the town of Mapiripan, Guaviare, approximately 450 km from Bogota, but her release was not learned of until Friday.

The source added that the negotiations with the kidnappers, members of the self-styled (pro-Soviet) Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, were held by the victim's nephew and that Wood had already left for the United States.

In this same region, another U.S. citizen, Martin Stendall, remains in the hands of a FARC group that kidnapped him on 14 August as he was leaving his small private airplane. It has been said unofficially that the rebels are demanding $500,000 for his release.

AUTHORITIES SOLVE KIDNAPPING OF U.S. CITIZEN

PA211835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1734 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 21 Aug (AFP) -- The Colombian secret police (F-2) today disclosed that they have solved the kidnapping of U.S. geologist Kenneth Stanley Bishop on 7 March. Bishop, the Texas Petroleum Company production manager at the time, was intercepted by two men and a woman north of Bogota in an operation during which both his driver and his bodyguard were killed.

The police today announced that after conducting an intense investigation, it captured lawyer Ivan Dario Murcia Reyes, the woman Zolanda Umana, and Guillermo Rojas Franno, the latter apparently a Texas Petroleum Company employee. The detainees, who allegedly belong to the sinister People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP), were also charged with the kidnapping and murder of Liberal political leader Gloria Lara de Echeverri.

Lara de Echeverri was kidnapped on 23 July 1982 and killed with a shot in the head 6 months later in a suburb in northwestern Bogota when negotiations for her ransom failed. Bishop was released 2 months later, after a large sum of money was paid, and he left for the United States with his family.

Colombian police announced that they will send several pictures of the detainees to the authorities in Miami to see if Bishop can identify them as his kidnappers and if he can provide any additional data.

PEACE COMMISSION NEGOTIATING CEASE-FIRE

PA202349 Paris AFP in Spanish 1050 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 20 Aug (AFP) -- A cease-fire between the Colombian guerrillas and the military forces is currently being negotiated by a state peace commission, a Communist Party of Colombia spokesman who is on the commission announced Friday.

Communist leader Alberto Rojas Puyo, who made the announcement at the end of a meeting with Government (Interior) Minister Alfonso Gomez Gomez, noted, however, that the truce will depend on many factors.

He admitted that "there is undoubtedly great interest in achieving a cease-fire," for which "many concrete proposals have been made," and indicated that "it is the object of a very delicate and complex dialogue."

Rojos Puyo said that the Peace Commission appointed by President Belisario Betancur in late 1982 to seek ways of achieving peace in the country is concerned about the current wave of violence.

He explained that the murder of 25 people by unidentified criminal organizations in the area of Middle Magdalena, in the midwestern part of the country, has hindered the peace negotiations.

According to Rojas Puyo, by appointing 11 judges the government hopes to unmask these clandestine groups that "are supplanting the state and taking justice into their own hands."

"The peace process will depend to a great extent on the promptness with which the government acts to stop those who are promoting terror," the communist spokesman added.

ARMED GROUP QUESTIONS, KILLS ANTIOQUIA PEASANTS

PA200333 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Aug 83 p 3A

[Text] Medellin, 12 Aug -- Six miners -- a 12-year-old boy, three women, and two men -- were killed with machete blows in the mountains of Segovia Municipality in northeastern Antioquia.

Police reported that the bodies of the miners were buried by a peasant from the area around the Tamar River, at the border between Antioquia and Bolivar Departments, in the Middle Magdalena area. Five other bodies were found yesterday, but only one of the victims has been identified.

On 4 August, four members of a peasant league were also killed with machete blows a few kilometers from the Tamar River, near the Manila River. A fifth peasant managed to escape after being stabbed several times and receiving machete blows to his neck and chest.

According to several peasants from Segovia, this grisly string of murders has been committed by a group of over 10 armed men who arrived in the Manila area last week. "They wear hats and white ponchos and carry brand new machetes, rifles, grenades, and pistols," said Esmar Agudelo, the survivor of the massacre at the Manila River.

According to testimony by the peasants, the murderers carry lists of people they are supposed to kill and question the victims before killing them. "They want to know who collaborates with the guerrillas, where the victims are from, and what their occupations are. They also ask for their identity papers, said Agudelo, who saw his four companions die before managing to escape to the mountains.

The murdered miners were Ivan Castrillon, Maria Zuleta, Hernan Alvarez, Reina Alvarez, Zoila Alvarez, and 12-year-old Duran Palacio. The peasant said that the bodies had been mutilated and crudely buried on the banks of the Tamana River. He told the police that the number of peasants who have been murdered in the area during the past week could be well over 20.

LLOREDA CAICEDO DISCUSSES C.A. PEACE EFFORTS

Guatemala To Support Contadora

PA190111 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by Dario Hoyos Hoyos]

[Excerpt] Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has stated that Guatemala will soon support the Contadora Group because it doesn't face the most critical problems of Central America.

He maintained that the U.S. Government is not opposed to that policy, as can be seen by the meeting that a U.S. Government representative held with a delegate of the Honduran guerrillas [as published] in Bogota.

"This was a sign of trust in us," Lloreda Caicedo said.

He added: The new president of Guatemala has maintained that the Central American problem does not concern Latin Americans. This is correct. We do not want to override these countries. We want to help. If the Central Americans can straighten out their problems without our assistance, great! Let them do that.

The foreign minister talked with Contadora Group members on Tuesday. Following consultations, it was agreed that they would review certain documents, including the Cancun Declaration and the Central Americans' and Nicaraguans' statements at their next meeting, possibly on 23 or 24 August.

There are concurrences on all the points mentioned in these documents, and Contadora will begin discussing them.

The Colombian minister said that a cautious waiting period must pass before issuing an opinion on the new Guatemalan Government.

"We must wait for its consolidation and the appointment of a new cabinet to see where they stand."

Fidel Castro's stand on Colombia is good, Lloreda Caicedo noted.

Will relations be resumed soon?

It all depends... the Cubans are not too eager and neither are we.

We discussed other topics with the foreign minister: drug trafficking and disputed money, for example.

Regarding the former, the government is working with the Drug Enforcement Agency to try to control drug trafficking. He said that he opposes the legalization of marijuana -- for personal use -- as proposed by Ernesto Samper, "because in general terms the drug is harmful and it is hard to predict where it will lead people. The United States has not been able to stop drug trafficking despite every scientific effort made to control it."

Regarding the debate on disputed money, he said that it is advisable and inevitable. He also talked about a treaty on judicial evidence to enable evidence obtained in the United States to be used and vice versa.

Comments on Contadora Contacts

PA191450 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- The so-called Contadora Group will start a 48-hour meeting in Panama next Thursday and will meet with Central American foreign ministers in the second week of September in an attempt to reach the first basic agreements concerning the situation in the region.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has said he is working actively with his colleagues in Panama, Mexico, and Venezuela on the basis of three documents: the one issued by the Contadora Group presidents; the one issued by El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Honduras; and the one issued by the Nicaraguan Sandinist Government.

We understand that we are not a friendship club to discuss peace academically. We must urgently discuss the critical situation in Central America, always with the support of these countries and with the understanding that these countries will eventually be the ones to establish the bases for peace, the foreign minister told Emisoras CARACOL.

The foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with the support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts and [words indistinct] Colombian President Belisario Betancur from the U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Allan Cranston, who held an information conference at Narino Palace with President Betancur and Foreign Minister Lloreda.

This support is very significant because of Congress' role in the U.S. Government and the valuable assistance this will represent in reducing tensions in Central America, Lloreda Caicedo said.

Senator Cranston is a member of the U.S. Congressional Foreign Relations Committee and played a significant role in realizing the Panama Canal Treaty, which in 1977 recognized that country as having sovereign rights over its canal zone.

Notes C.A. Peace Prospects

PA212010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1930 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 21 Aug (AFP) -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo today noted the existence of a willingness to engage in dialogue on the part of the countries involved in the conflict plaguing Central America.

Lloreda noted that Central America's pacification can be achieved in view of that willingness and with the help governments such as those of Cuba, the United States, and the Soviet Union give as well as with international support.

He warned, however, that the solution cannot be only political. It must also include a solution to economic and social problems like health, education, and housing.

"If solutions are found for these problems, tensions will cease in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras, where it would not be an exaggeration to say that every family mourns a victim."

Lloreda defended the peace efforts of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) and said that its work has been fundamental "in averting a general war in the area."

He also defended President Betancur's criticized trips to some Central American countries, and asserted that they "have provided valuable hope to those people in conflict."

During his first year in government, Betancur has visited Central America on three occasions to emphasize the need for a negotiated peace in the area.

EDITORIAL EVALUATES BETANCUR'S FIRST YEAR

PA201345 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Aug 83 p 4-a

[Editorial: "The Kingdom of Charisma"]

[Excerpt] A year after it took office, the administration has taken positive steps that are real but mostly intangible. Peace was restored by decree, based on a very broad amnesty. It has still not been achieved, but the country is awaiting it with great expectation and hope. In foreign relations, the chief of state decided to free us from an international boss that we had disowned, proclaiming -- to the bafflement of some but to some popular acclaim, especially from the left -- a new national independence. The efforts to achieve a Caribbean peace are also intangible. Without doubt they serve to enhance the status of the president on the international and national levels; he does enjoy hemispheric leadership. In economics, we certainly must praise the way he and his team have handled the financial crisis, restoring confidence in certain kinds of investment. He has acted with insight, courage, and irreproachable honesty.

Domestic peace, the economic recovery, the people's confidence in their leader, and a fresh international stand are without doubt the outstanding feats of his administration. To make sure, we have gone over ideas in other editorials and commentaries on this subject and we have not found anything else. Everyone agrees on these special reasons for speaking well of the Betancur administration, but to make something solid of them is not simple. They are very ethereal cases, difficult to pinpoint as achievements. Above all, Belisario Betancur's outstanding likeability and gallantry tower over any other consideration in analyzing the first year of his administration. As it enters its second phase, it is beginning to lose the favor of some fairy godmothers, while it wins others. In the political arena it assumes a different stand and some sectors are taking their first steps along the easy road of opposition. No Colombian wants or hopes for the failure of the present administration. All hope that economically the second half of 1983 will produce the benefits of the recovery outlined in theory and possibly achievable in practice. The inflation rates and cost of living indexes point in that direction. Popular support is still alive, and all of Colombia, with a judgmental eye but an open mind, is waiting for the present administration to enter the phase of achievements, and for them to be attained for the benefit of all our fellow countrymen.

SIX POLICEMEN INJURED IN STUDENT DISORDERS

PA202231 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0411 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 19 Aug (EFE) -- Six policemen and one civilian were injured today during student disturbances in this capital marking the first anniversary of the killing of university professor Alberto Alava. Police spokesmen reported that the students attacked National University authorities with a hail of stones and pointed objects. At the end of the incident, five students were detained and held responsible for the disorders, which lasted over 3 hours.

HONDURAN OFFICER ON GOALS OF JOINT MANEUVERS

PA191419 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2156 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Quito, 18 Aug (EFE) -- The joint U.S.-Honduran Armed Forces maneuvers seek to establish a curtain between Nicaragua and El Salvador, Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Nunez, member of a special Honduran mission, has reported today. The mission, headed by Ambassador Anibal Quinonez, briefed Ecuadorean President Oswaldo Hurtado on Honduras' position regarding the Central American conflict.

According to Ambassador Quinonez, the Honduran position is to seek a peaceful solution, as he has expressed before at the OAS. It has been found, he said, that there are corridors crossing Honduras which Nicaragua has used to pass arms and ammunition to the Salvadoran and Guatemalan guerrillas. "We believe," he stated, "that with this maneuver, by the end of the year when the Salvadoran people have to express their will at the polls, the guerrillas at least will not have any ammunition."

According to Nunez, the U.S. and Honduran military actions are also intended to maintain a "state of alert" in the Army of his country to counter any attempt by Nicaragua to wage "a revolutionary war."

EL SALVADOR'S CHAVEZ MENA TO VISIT IN AUGUST

PA211450 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Manuel Arturo Calderon, Salvadoran ambassador to Ecuador, has reported that a high-level delegation headed by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena will arrive in Quito in late August. During his stay in Quito, the high-ranking Salvadoran official will meet with Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez, President Oswaldo Hurtado, political leaders, workers, and other opinion sectors to outline the situation in his country, which is currently going through one of the most difficult stages in its history because of the fighting between the Army and the guerrillas. According to reports, Chavez Mena also plans to visit Panama and Peru for the same purpose.

ENERGY MINISTER ON OIL PRODUCTION, PRICES

PA190320 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Natural Resources and Energy Minister Gustavo Galindo said yesterday that Ecuador would accept a special meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, in order to increase production but not to increase prices. Asked to what levels he thinks production must be increased, Galindo said this would be based on a study to be carried out at the OPEC meeting. In his opinion, however, the increase should be 10 percent, toward the end of the year.

The minister pointed out that Ecuador is currently producing 140,000 barrels daily, its current capacity, but there exists the possibility of increasing production by some 15,000 barrels between October and November. Regarding the mechanisms for placing the 10,000 [as heard] barrels of royalties, Galindo confirmed that bids for the long-term sale of this quantity would be opened today. He said the price to be attained might be over $27.50 [per barrel].

ARMY COMMANDER DENOUNCES COMMUNIST PLOT

PY200050 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 19 Aug (EFE) -- Today Army Commander General Carlos Briceno denounced the existence of a plot to install communism in Peru.

Media and political circles have termed General Briceno's statement as "explosive," and a communique issued by the Army has confirmed the commander's declarations.

The communique points out that "Peru's internal enemies" are aware that the Armed Forces is the biggest obstacle in "their attempt to take over power and install communism in agreement with the terrorist criminals of the Shining Path group."

The communique adds that those internal enemies, "potential traitors to the fatherland," are "pseudo-journalists" who intend to divide the Army by "resorting to lies, calumny, and slander."

The communique then points out that some persons who "at one time were in the Army, where they even occupied high-ranking posts," have colluded with "undesirable civilians" who seek to destroy military values "in order to create social chaos and profit in the name of a false spirit of justice." As a consequence, the Army command, "having become aware of this ignoble maneuver," will fulfill all its duties as provided for by the Constitution.

The communique ends by stating that "the enemy has been clearly pinpointed along with his domestic and foreign allies, and his wicked objectives." The communique does not make any special mention of the "internal enemies," and substantially reflects what General Briceno stated.

It is interpreted that, in mentioning the "pseudo-journalists," the general was referring to the media of the opposition, especially the leftist media, and when he referred to those who belonged to the Army he was referring to members of the former military regime. After making his statement, General Briceno refused to give the journalists any names. He merely stated that "you know them perfectly well."

General Briceno voiced the Army's firm desire that democracy, reestablished in 1980 after 12 years of a military regime, not be disrupted. The Army commander stated that "there are elements in the Army who cooperate with the pseudo-journalists," but that he would not say anything more. He pointed out that subversive elements and persons of other ideologies were trying to oust the constitutional regime, just as the "Shining Path group," of a Maoist tendency, "is trying to do."

The commander dismissed the charges made by "Amnesty International" regarding "political murders" in Peru, stating that they were completely false. He also denied that Peru receives foreign aid for its struggle against terrorism. The professionalism of the Armed Forces, he stated, "allows us to struggle alone without anybody's help."

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES REFINANCING OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY202351 Paris AFP in Spanish 1635 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 19 Aug (AFP) -- Last night Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez told the Senate that Peru refinanced $5 billion of its foreign debt with Western countries and will reprogram its debt of $150 million with the socialist countries.

He said that this important achievement was obtained thanks to the current democratic system and to an economic program of austerity which will continue until 1984. The minister said that because of this refinancing, the debt, which represented 64 percent of annual exports, has decreased to 31 percent.

The minister recalled that $285 million was obtained from the IMF which endorsed the subsequent negotiations with 287 international banks and the Paris Club. He explained that the banks postponed for 1 year the payment of $2 billion and for 8 years the payment of $1.5 billion in addition to the granting of a credit of $395 million. He added that the government members of the Paris Club agreed to postpone for 8 years the payment of $1 billion, which represents 90 percent of the debt that had to be paid this year.

In conclusion, the minister announced that he will soon leave for the USSR, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia to negotiate the refinancing of $150 million in similar terms.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED IN AYACUCHO

PY201552 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0002 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Lima, 19 Aug (EFE) -- The Peruvian Government has extended the state of emergency for another 60 days in 9 provinces of the Andean departments of Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Huancavelica, it was reported today in Lima.

This measure was adopted during a cabinet meeting held today at Government House. The announcement was made by Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb during a press conference.

Schwalb noted that the state of emergency that has been decreed previously for the troubled area will expire 24 August, and that it was decided to extend it in view of the ongoing subversive activities of Shining Path. The emergency area, which comprises nine Andean provinces, has been under the political-military control of the Army since late 1982. The state of emergency for this area is unrelated to the one in the rest of the country which was extended on 29 July.

Havana Notes Killing

PA210436 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Several unidentified individuals have gunned down a member of the Republican Guard in downtown Ayacucho, Peru. Meanwhile, in the port of Callao, the police deactivated two bombs placed in the stadium.

Elsewhere, the investigative police arrested the youths Cresencio Saenz Roman, Manuel Angulo Andia, and Segundo Alcibiades Chavez on the charge of staging the 11 July attack on the ruling Popular Action Party headquarters.

FURTHER ON DETENTION OF U.S. SHRIMPERS OFF TAMAULIPAS

FL191840 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] [No dateline] Four U.S. shrimp boats were detained by a Mexican Navy Coast Guard boat while fishing 45 miles of the Tamaulipas coast in the Gulf of Mexico, the Navy Secretariat reported. The Secretariat said the U.S. boats, named Cape Kennedy, Freshman, Norma Ray, and Cadis, were carrying 1 and 1/2 tons, 1,800 kilograms, 700 kilograms, and 600 kilograms of shrimp, respectively. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 0740 GMT on 19 August, in a report on the detention of the shrimp boats, adds the following:

The captains, identified as Jimmy Altamirano, Chester Joseph Heber, Thomas Wilson, and Francis Williams, were arrested, along with 24 crewmembers, and escorted to Tampico, the agency [NOTIMEX] added. It was not possible to establish contact with U.S. Embassy officials.]

EL SOL ANALYZES REAGAN-DE LA MADRID SUMMIT

'Positive Facts' in Relations

PA202000 Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 17 Aug 83 p 4A

[Article by Bernardo Ponce: "Perspective: 1. Positive Interview; 2. Bilateral Relations" -- capitalized passages published in boldface]

[Text] OF COURSE Mexico is interested in achieving a peaceful formula for the Central American region, based on nonintervention by foreign forces alien to fraternal countries in this part of America. Undoubtedly, this topic was included in the talks that were so positively carried out in La Paz, Baja California. During the talks, President Reagan mentioned four points that he considers the basis for achieving peace without foreign intervention or affecting Central American security.

Both Mexico and the United States are interested in achieving peace for the Central American zone. The essence and substantial objectives of the two presidents' dialogue were topics of direct and immediate interest and bilateral issues between the two neighboring and now friendly countries.

There has seldom been such a frank dialogue, and it stressed the two countries' interests in solving border problems. For Reagan, the 3,000-odd km border must be a common concern, and they have started a joint effort that will benefit the people who live on either side of the two nations' common border.

Early in his speech at the headquarters of the Southern Baja California state congress, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid stated this great truth: "Relations with the United States will not depend on fate, but on what the two parties decide to do." This pleases us, because fatalism is a negative force. The actions of those who participate in Mexican-U.S. relations are what really counts. The Mexican president also said: "Today we are united by the conviction that any problem concerning border areas can be discussed in a rational and constructive way without giving up our cultural identity and legitimate national interests, or offending our political dignity. Relations between Mexico and the United States today are mature and responsible."

FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. Facts are more eloquent than words, even though words frequently but not always precede facts.

In this case there is a congruence between the words of good will and the positive facts in bilateral relations between Mexico and the United States.

The Mexican president himself reminded us about the tough economic crisis we have been experiencing. The good understanding and cooperation of our country and government with our neighbor in the north is certainly a highly important factor to help us overcome this difficult phase of our modern history.

The main positive facts, stressed by President Ronald Reagan, are the sale of grain to our country with financial support; the possible purchase of Mexican oil for U.S. strategic reserves; further efforts and negotiations to increase trade between the two countries; and encouragement of assembly plants on the Mexican side of the border. Several agreements are being negotiated, and one of them, to improve ecological conditions in the border zone, was signed, proving how useful cooperation between two nations and governments can be.

The toast offered at the banquet given by the Mexican president for his U.S. counterpart was very significant for President de la Madrid and President Ronald Reagan. The former stressed: "... the Mexicans have achieved a cordial, dignified, and respectful level of relations." He added: "I am sure that Mexico and the United States will continue building reciprocal and democratically equitable relations in the future. We know that benefits for one become in turn benefits for the other." So be it.

No Agreement Reached

PA201705 Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 17 Aug 83 p 5A

[Article by Margarita Nolasco: "Presidential Meetings"]

[Excerpts] The meeting was held in La Paz, Baja California Sur, on 14 August 1983. It was another meeting between the presidents of two neighboring countries with a border thousands of kilometers long.

Mexico is a difficult neighbor. It does not permit interference in internal affairs, and it maintains an independent foreign policy. That is why 7 hours of negotiation led to the expected: a harmless agreement on border cooperation, more sales of Mexican petroleum to the United States, and new promises of U.S. credit for the purchase of grain that is so needed by Mexico. Nothing on Central America, braceros, tuna, or the next meeting of debtor countries to jointly analyze their problems. If they discussed those topics, this remained a state secret in the files of topics on which agreement could not be imposed.

The Mexican president's position was firm. Although nothing is known about the 7-hour-long meeting, there are enough signs to believe that Miguel de la Madrid was a Mexican negotiator with a firm and strong Latin American spirit: "No one can impose his image on others or believe that his values and solutions are superior and thus applicable to another nation." Reagan, who paid no attention -- as he has done thus far -- to the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace in Central America, outlined a four-point plan for Central America: 1) Establishment of democratic institutions to solve the political differences within each country; 2) Nonintervention, including support for subversive groups that want to destabilize other countries;

3) Removal of the conflict from the sphere of the East-West struggle, with measures such as verifiable withdrawal of military and security advisers, and a freeze on the purchase of offensive weapons; 4) Cooperation to maintain an economic level that will guarantee the basic needs of the region's peoples. Two positions: On the one hand, a position that watches over the interests of peace in Latin America, and on the other hand, a position that watches over the economic and political interests of the United States and the transnationals in Latin America. It was another meeting between presidents of differing power and positions who have to speak as equals. Hegenonic power and moral power, simple imposition and the search for peace: those are the differences between those who spoke as equals. There could not have been much agreement; in fact; there was none.

REPORTS ON VISIT OF NICARAGUA'S D'ESCOTO, RUIZ

No Details Available

PA200225 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2110 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Aug (EFE) -- Mexican official and diplomatic circles today remained silent regarding the visit of Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Planning Minister Henry Ruiz. Mexican and Nicaraguan diplomatic sources confirmed the visit of the Nicaraguan ministers, but they did not know the reason for their visit. They did not even know if the Nicaraguan visitors had already returned to their country.

D'Escoto and Ruiz probably met with high Mexican officials. D'Escoto also visited Mexico at the end of last month with Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan agriculture and agrarian development minister.

D'Escoto Meets Sepulveda

PA202004 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Aug (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto met in private with his Mexican colleague, Bernardo Sepulveda, it was unofficially reported here.

D'Escoto, who today returned to his country after remaining in Mexico a little over 24 hours, was accompanied during his meeting with Sepulveda by Nicaraguan Planning Minister Henry Ruiz, according to the information.

The interview with Sepulveda touched on the Central American peace efforts of the Contadora Group, comprised of Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela, according to the same sources.

The discussions may have also touched on Honduran charges that 300 guerrillas entered that country from Nicaraguan territory.

The Honduran accusation, filed at the time of the joint military maneuvers with the United States underway in the area, has increased tension "because it could be an excuse for Honduras to initiate direct hostilities against Nicaragua," according to the same sources.

BELIZEAN PRIME MINISTER PRICE PAYS VISIT

Meets With De la Madrid

FL191604 Bridgetown CANA in English 1145 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, Aug 19, CANA-REUTER -- Belizean Prime Minister George Price held private talks here yesterday with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Price heads the nation of 150,000 that borders Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and Guatemala, which claims Belize as its territory. Belize was a British colony that gained its independence in September 1981. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the subject of the talks was not disclosed.

Price's visit comes the week after Guatemala's President Efrain Rios Montt was overthrown in a coup by former Defence Minister Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores.

Comments on Talks

PA191515 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0035 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Aug (EFE) -- Belizean Prime Minister George Price stated here today that his country and Mexico are intent on working to resolve the problems besetting the two nations.

In a statement to newsmen, Price, who is also Belizean foreign minister, added that he appreciated Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's receiving him in his office at the official "Los Pinos" residence.

He also said that De la Madrid understands the problems of that Central American nation and that the talks between the two concerned bilateral topics of interest to Belize and Mexico.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda was present during the talks. Price is on a private visit to Mexico.

Havana Quotes C.A. Remarks

FL201240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Belize's Prime Minister George Price has rejected the presence of U.S. naval and air forces in Central America. During his visit to Mexico City, Price stressed his country's support for the efforts of the Contadora Group and said that the U.S. military presence in the area made the peace efforts of the Contadora Group of nations more difficult.

Supports Contadora Efforts

FL201900 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1840 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] The Contadora Group has a difficult task and Belize supports its efforts, George Price, prime minister of Belize, told the local press yesterday before departing for his country following a 48-hour visit to Mexico.

Price said the Contadora Group's work will be much easier when the foreign armed forces of both sides of the Central American conflict are withdrawn.

He said Belize has an on-going problem with Guatemala, a country which does not recognize its independence, but stressed that his government is willing to negotiate the problem without detriment to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Price met yesterday with President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado with whom, he said, he discussed bilateral and cooperation matters.

NEW ZEALAND'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES

FL201235 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0339 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpts] New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Duncan MacIntyre arrived in Mexico City today. During his stay here he will sign a scientific agreement and inaugurate his country's embassy in Mexico.

Interviewed at the airport, MacIntyre said his government is interested in establishing new trade and technical and scientific relations with our country because it is a peace-loving and responsible nation that can guarantee any agreement.

He noted that trade between the two countries had increased considerably over the past few years. He said that from June 1982 to June 1983 New Zealand's exports to Mexico totaled 1.35 billion pesos, making Mexico his country's third leading market in Latin America.

During his stay in Mexico, MacIntyre, who is also New Zealand's minister of agriculture and minister of fisheries, will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid to learn his opinion on the Central American conflict.

He will also hold talks with Horacio Garcia Aguilar, secretary of agriculture and hydraulic resources; Pedro Ojeda Paullada, secretary of fisheries; and Hector Hernandez, secretary of commerce and industrial development, to further strengthen the existing trade ties between the two nations.

MacIntyre was welcomed at the airport by Adolfo de Rosenzwaig-Diaz, undersecretary of foreign relations, and by other officials from the New Zealand Embassy in Mexico.

BRIEFS

TWO FOREIGN LOANS POSTPONED -- The government has postponed the use of two foreign loans in the amount of $1.1 billion and $325 million, granted by world banks and the IMF, because the foreign sector of the economy has grown stronger. The funds have been available since May, but because of the commercial surplus of $5.9 billion, the authorities have chosen to postpone use of the funds. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Jul 83 p 7 PA]

JAPANESE SENATOR'S VISIT -- Hirosi Tachiki, a senator from the Japanese Communist Party, is in Mexico to participate as a member of the presidium in the second congress of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, to be held 8-14 August 1983. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 8 Aug 83 p 3 PA]

FOREIGN MINISTER AMADO DISCUSSES C.A., CONTADORA

PA181730 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Aug 83

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado, by unidentified reporter; held 17 August in Panama City -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Minister, about 2 minutes ago the Venezuelan ambassador came out of your office. Could you tell us something about your meeting, which lasted approximately 1 hour?

[Amado] Yes, I talked to the Venezuelan ambassador, who is helping some Venezuelan businessmen contact the appropriate Panamanian officials in their fields. The Venezuelan ambassador was accompanied by representatives of Van Dam, a Venezuelan firm, and of Sosa y Barbero, a Panamanian firm, who are trying to complete some details regarding an existing contract. I was only acting as a mediator. The Foreign Ministry has no power of decision in this type of contract, which deals with highly specialized technical matters and requires the decision of experts in engineering and economics.

[Reporter] Did you discuss Van Dam only, or did you talk about the Ultramar Bank?

[Amado] No, we talked only about the bridge over the Canal that Van Dam signed a contract to build.

[Reporter] What will the Contadora Group's next step be?

[Amado] We are planning a working session for next week. We will consult the foreign ministers for a date which does not interfere with any prior commitments. We will talk with the new Guatemalan foreign minister. Perhaps Wednesday, 24 August, is a good date for the Central American foreign ministers to come to Panama so that we can meet Thursday, 25 August and Friday, 26 August, and if necessary continue on Saturday and Sunday. We plan this time to seriously discuss some specific issues, to see if we can reach agreement on a document which clearly expresses the intentions of the countries. These intentions must have the proper mechanism so that they can be implemented. Little will be gained by signing a series of documents we cannot put into practice. We must guarantee control of arms trafficking and the fact that all countries comply with the disarmament process. This is an issue which we will approach from the perspective of utmost respect for the sovereign rights of countries.

[Reporter] What does the Contadora Group, and particularly Panama, think about the recent meeting of Presidents De la Madrid and Reagan?

[Amado] I presume that in their meeting they talked mainly about bilateral issues and also about the Central American situation. Both countries have expressed concern about this situation. I would say that both heads of state have in mind a similar final objective, which is to quickly obtain peace in Central America. Perhaps their ways of approaching this differ, and also their commitments. The United States has the commitment to support and protect Honduras and El Salvador, while Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama are trying to quickly use diplomatic solutions to increase the coincidence of factors that may guarantee peace. At any rate, even if they tackle the problem differently, the common objective must prevail. This would mean we could work with more dynamism and increased support from the international community to achieve peace in Central America.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the presence of U.S. forces in Honduras does not represent a setback for the Contadora Group?

[Amado] I believe that the presence of any military force, be it U.S., Soviet, European, or Asian, represents a concern and a deterioration of the negotiations that may lead to a peaceful solution. We must also be aware that Central America is not a paradise right now. There is a conflict, and citizens from several nations are dying in this conflict, It is a tough, critical, severe situation. It is for this very reason that we must act quickly -- and we are willing to cooperate in anything that will help achieve peace. I truly hope we can stop the many deaths in our fraternal Central American countries.

[Reporter] Does the U.S. presence in Honduras involve the U.S. bases in the Canal area for various exercises?

[Amado] To the best of our knowledge, no. There has been an increase in activity within the bases for the defense of the Canal area. These activities, naturally, are related to a defense strategy -- which I presume involves assuring that no situations arise to endanger the Canal's security. In logistical terms, based on what we have learned -- and I warn you that I am no expert in military strategy -- it is much easier to supply assistance directly from the United States than via Panama.

[Reporter] Minister, returning to the case of Guatemala: Its highest officials have made somewhat unfavorable statements concerning the Contadora Group. What is your opinion about this?

[Amado] We had the opportunity to learn about certain statements made by General Mejia concerning the Contadora Group's actions when he assumed the position of head of state of Guatemala. Our impression is that General Mejia did not at the time have enough information available to make his own judgment and issue a realistic opinion concerning what Contadora has been doing and its contacts. Later, with the appointment of a new Guatemalan foreign minister, they have issued new statements that favor Contadora's action. As we pointed out, this action seeks the mechanisms to enable common sense and understanding to prevail among the parties involved, allowing them to surmount the present cirsis. This action is based on respect for the rights of every nation, of every country. We are not trying to meddle in the nation's internal affairs or affect decisions that are the exclusive and sovereign right of every Central American nation.

[Reporter] Therefore, do you expect the Guatemalan foreign minister to attend the meeting scheduled for next week?

[Amado] We certainly hope he will come to Panama next week.

[Reporter] Does this in fact mean that relations between Panama and Guatemala continue to be normal after the change of government?

[Amado] In effect, they continue to be normal. We visualize relations among countries as relations among citizens and permanent insitutions. I believe that all governments in all countries are temporary, and changes take place either for internal reasons or for democratic reasons. This does not mean there must be a change in our attitude or in the good relations that prevail among citizens.

[Reporter] Minister, one last question, changing the subject: How is Panama's candidacy for the UN presidency progressing?

[Amado] We view it with great optimism and enthusiasm. We have received much support from this hemisphere, and European and Asian countries. Panama also has much support from the African community. The fact that our country is a member of the Nonaligned Movement also gives it great support. The possibility that Panama could preside over the next assembly has great value and significance for our country, as a nation with an independent view and analysis of international topics.

It is a nation that fully respects the principles included in the UN Charter, such as respect for national sovereign rights, non-discrimination because of race, ethnic group, religion, or political creed. We also maintain an open mind, a pluralism, in our own internal affairs and toward other nations. These attitudes have always given Panama a specific role concerning external support and international relations. Proof of this is the contacts being made with Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia -- known as the Contadora Group. [end recording]

CANAL COMMISSION OFFICIAL VIEWS FUTURE PROSPECTS

PA210331 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Aug 83 pp A-1, B-14

[Text] The Panama Canal's utility, according to plans, will extend beyond the year 2000, Canal Commission Deputy Administrator Fernando Manfredo Jr said on opening the "Know Your Canal" week, organized by the Society of Friends of the Afro-Antillian Museum.

Speaking on the very day of the Canal's anniversary, Manfredo expressed the hope that those who are "visiting the Canal today, 69 years after its inauguration, and are seeing ships from all nations going through efficiently and safely, will share our deep pride in the way the Canal is operated and maintained."

"I hope," he added, "that you share the great respect and admiration that we feel for our predecessors, whose ability, vision, and courage resulted in one of the great engineering feats of all time."

After rendering a historical account of the great effort and intelligence that was put to a test in the construction of the Canal, Manfredo listed the major improvements that have been made to the waterway:

The first was the construction of Madden Dam, completed in 1935, on the upper Chagres River. After this came the broadening of the Culebra Cut from 300 to 500 feet, "substantially increasing the Canal's capacity." This was completed in 1970.

"More recently, in the years that the Canal has been operating under the administration of the Panama Canal Commission, the numbers of mules, tugs, and lighthouses have been increased; currently, the Canal bed is being deepened and a mooring station north of the Pedro Miguel Locks is being completed," Manfredo added.

He said that these improvements have increased the Canal's capacity so that it now handles an average of 42 ships per day.

The Commission's deputy administrator also spoke of the prospects for Canal use, indicating that it is estimated that the Canal will reach the point of maximal usage by 1990. This growing demand requires an increase in the supply of water, Manfredo said.

He explained that some of the alternatives now being considered for increasing the water supply are to deepen the navigation canal along the Gatun Lake and the Cut, which would make it 3 feet deeper; to build one or two more locks on rivers that empty into the Gatun basin; or to raise the level of Gatun Lake by changing the locks at both ends of the lake.

A fourth alternative, considered "undesirable" by Manfredo because of its potentially adverse consequences on the ecology and on other uses of the lake, is to pump sea water into Gatun Lake.

Manfredo also referred to plans to broaden the Culebra Cut beyond its current 500 feet, a project that will increase the Canal's capacity to the point where it could handle 17,500 crossings per year.

In his opinion, more than this will not be necessary until well after the year 2000. However, in the event capacity is met, he said, "we can keep the Canal functioning indefinitely by increasing tolls and reducing service, so as to discourage additional users."

Next, Manfredo answered a question regarding Panama's ability to operate the Canal when it receives it on 31 December 1999. "In my opinion", Manfredo said, "to ensure that Panama can effectively and efficiently take over administration, operation, and maintenance of the Canal, the following conditions are necessary:

Clear awareness of the fact that the Canal is a business enterprise, subject to the same factors that affect any business, and that it should be handled as such;

Awareness that the Canal does not hold a monopoly and that ships will use it only if it is the best, safest, and most economical alternative;

Awareness that the Canal has a considerable amount of old equipment and a number of installations whose continued utility depends upon constant high-quality maintenance;

Awareness that the Canal depends upon efficient and experienced manpower, whose working conditions and job security should be respected;

Awareness that the nature of Canal operations and equipment and the age of its installations necessitates special training for personnel;

Awareness that Panama should take the initiative to ensure that alternative means of transportation that are more attractice than the Canal are built here. In this respect, Manfredo expressed the belief that the Canal should be complemented, when the time comes, with ground bridges, pipelines for both liquids and solids, and other technological developments in transportation;

Awareness that it is necessary to preserve the ability to plan and to organize in anticipation of problems. "The great task that Panama is facing for the year 2000 is both a challenge and an opportunity," Manfredo concluded.

BRIEFS

TAIWAN DEFENSE MINISTER -- Brigadier General Manuel Antonio Noriega, National Guard commander in chief, who was accompanied by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of staff, received Fleet Admiral Sung Chang-chih, Taiwan defense minister, who is visiting our country. Sung Chang-chih, who was accompanied by Taiwan's ambassador to Panama, Pablo Tsen [as heard], decorated Gen Noriega with the Order of the Shining Flag in the grade of Great Cordon, while Col Diaz received the same decoration in grade of Special Corvette, granted by the Taiwan government. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Aug 83 PA]

BRAZILIAN, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADORS -- Antonio Bethancourt and Cavan Oliver Fenton Hogue, respectively, ambassadors of Brazil and Australia to Panama, have presented their credentials to President Ricardo de la Espriella and Vice President Dr Jorge Illueca. [Summary] [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Aug 83 p 6-B PA]

COSTA RICA

MONGE STRESSES ALLIANCE WITH UNITED STATES

PA200409 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0151 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 19 Aug (DPA) -- President Luis Alberto Monge today stressed that "there is a definite alliance between Costa Rica and the United States, since the latter aids Costa Rica in all aspects of its struggle against poverty."

Monge pointed out: "I will not analyze U.S. policy in other countries, but as far as Costa Rica is concerned, the Americans are cooperating with us in our struggle against misery and are helping us overcome the economic crisis." He said: "I have no reason to conceal this from the Costa Rican people since they are grateful and admit that the United States is our ally, a country that has offered a helping hand from the very beginning of the economic crisis."

PRESIDENT DENIES MEXICO HAS BLOCKED CONTADORA

PA191955 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] The threat of what appeared to be an imminent war between Honduras and Nicaragua has diminished as result of the Contadora Group's efforts, said Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez. The head of state explained that although the situation continues to be difficult, there are now signs which lead one to conclude that the threat of what seemed to be an imminent war between Honduras and Nicaragua is gradually dissipating. It is important, he added, to remain optimistic regarding the ability of the Contadora Group to find a political solution to regional problems and to bring peace to Central America.

President Monge noted: Our position is well-known and clearly defined: We want to cooperate actively and enthusiastically in the search for peace in the area, but we understand that peace must be based on freedom, since there cannot be peace without freedom.

Asked if he considered Mexico's intention to impose its views on the other members of the Contadora Group to be the source of a confrontation which was preventing positive results in the peace negotiations, the Costa Rican president replied that he knew nothing about that situation. Monge added that, judging from his telephone conversation with President Miguel de la Madrid the day after the Cancun and Panama summit meetings, there does not appear to be any confrontation. Although he claimed to know nothing about alleged differences, Monge thought there was no confrontation. He reiterated his confidence that the Contadora Group will be successful in its initiative to solve the problems of the area, leading to peace in Central America.

The ambassadors of the Contadora Group nations met with President Monge yesterday morning to analyze the progress made by the group in its search for a peaceful solution to the region's difficulties. He said that he had received a document signed by the four presidents containing the main ideas of the Concun meeting.

He also pointed out that recent events, such as the meeting between President Reagan and De la Madrid, had been mentioned. He added that there had been some speculation as to the upcoming meeting of the Contadora Group in Panama.

Monge explained that the meeting yesterday morning was called at the request of the ambassadors of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia.

U.S. CONGRESSMEN MEET VOLIO, MONGE, ZAMORA

PA211625 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Aug 83 p 2A

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez yesterday said that our country feels threatened by Marxism-Leninism. He was speaking to U.S. Representative James Shannon, with whom he talked for approximately an hour in the Golden Room of the Yellow House.

Shannon, accompanied by Senator Paul Tsongas, is in Costa Rica to learn about our situation and that of the rest of Central America. They both met with President Luis Alberto Monge during the evening at his home in Pozos de Santa Ana. Shannon and Tsongas are members of the Democratic Party from Massachusetts.

Shannon also spoke with Ruben Zamora, the leader of the FDR of El Salvador. Their first meeting took place during the flight between San Salvador and San Jose and their second at the Cariari Hotel.

Volio told Shannon that Costa Ricans love democracy, but cannot ignore what is happening today in Central America. Therefore, he added, the Monge administration acts accordingly, investigating the enemies that are trying to destabilize the country and "facing the great risk of the government being taken over by force of arms." "We are not McCarthyites," Volio assured Shannon, adding that "we are not going to close our eyes or lower our guard against the enemies threatening us, even if we are called McCarthyites."

Volio said that the offensive being launched by Marxism to seize power through the use of violence is obvious, and that this is why Costa Rica needs the support of democracies like the United States. Furthermore, he told Shannon, our country supports the principle of nonintervention. Nevertheless, it had problems a few months ago with Nicaragua, and these were solved thanks to the firm position assumed by the Costa Rican Government. Despite this, he added, Costa Rica is worried about the Marxist regime that rules that country and about the powerful army it has, which represents a possible threat to the country's tranquillity. Volio said that the Costa Ricans want democracy and freedom to prevail in Central America.

Shannon and Tsongas met with President Monge, who also discussed the situation in Central America with them and his government's policy regarding the region's problems. According to reports, President Monge also reviewed the principle of neutrality set forth by the government in relation to the conflict currently prevailing among the countries of the region. However, he reiterated that in the East-West ideological struggle, Costa Rica is on the side of the Western democracies.

In relation to the meeting with FDR leader Ruben Zamora, Shannon said that their conversation was informal and that he hopes that the negotiatons between Zamora and Richard Stone, President Ronald Reagan's special envoy for Central America, are successful. It was also learned that Shannon and Tsongas would like to meet with leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, in San Jose.

NICARAGUA SUBMITS PLAN TO PAY OFF DEBT

PA192156 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government this afternoon delivered a proposal to our national authorities for the payment of Nicaragua's commercial debt to Costa Rica.

The presidents of the two countries' central banks and their economy ministers met this afternoon in San Jose to discuss the debt, which amounts to $120 million.

Economy and Commerce Minister Marco Antonio Lopez said that the proposal from the Sandinist government is negotiable and represents a step forward in the efforts to normalize trade relations between the two countries.

The proposal delivered to our government by Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, Nicaraguan minister of interior trade and the chief of the Nicaraguan delegation, suggests that trade relations between the two nations be altered. The authorities of Nicaragua's Marxist government propose that accrued amounts payable to Costa Rica not exceed $8-$10 million and that Nicaragua be allowed to make partial cash payments to our country.

The Nicaraguan Government also suggests that new amounts payable to Costa Rica be offset against debts payable by Costa Ricans to Nicaragua, Minister Lopez said. He added that he agrees with the proposal in principle, but only if such debts are confirmed. He noted that Nicaragua is prepared to promptly pay the amount due Costa Rica if it is confirmed that Costa Ricans do not owe money to Nicaragua.

The Sandinist authorities also suggest that efforts be made to achieve a [trade] balance of $4 million in favor of Nicaragua in 1983, which would be used to settle credit balances in favor of Costa Rica from trade transactions.

The proposal submitted by the Nicaraguan delegation this afternoon will be analyzed by the board of directors of the central bank and a response will be given to Nicaragua at an appropriate time.

MINISTRY DENIES PROXIMITY OF SOVIET SHIP

PA200325 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2156 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 19 Aug (DPA) -- Costa Rica's Public Security Ministry declared here today that no Soviet ship has passed near Puerto Limon in the last few hours. According to a U.S. State Department report, a Soviet merchant ship carrying weapons was near Limon and heading for Corinto, in Managua, Nicaragua. [as received]

The Security Ministry affirmed that no Soviet ship has been sighted in national waters during the last 2 weeks.

AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE PRESUMED SUBVERSION

PA210225 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 11 Aug 83 p 12-A

[Text] Investigations into the reported mobilization of extreme leftist subversive groups in Perez Zeledon are being coordinated by the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) and the Judicial Investigation Organization (OIJ).

This was confirmed last night by Major Rodolfo Jimenez, the deputy chief of the DIS, who noted that the organizations are investigating a number of reports from inhabitants of the area about mysterious movements in which well-known agitators have participated.

As part of the inquiry, seven houses were searched over the weekend, resulting in the discovery of propaganda from the People United, the Popular Vanguard Party, and the Salvadoran guerrilla group, the FMLN. Maj Jimenez described the propaganda as subversive. He added that some people have been temporarily detained. Nevertheless, he pointed out that on the information obtained, the DIS plans to expand its investigation.

The reports that have reached the DIS and the OIJ indicate that guerrillas are trying to destabilize and disrupt the constitutional order, Maj Jimenez said. He denied that the organizations had acted arbitrarily, as has been alleged by some doctors in the city of San Isidro. "We acted in accordance with the law. Proof of this is that we carried out our searches with prior judicial authorization. We apologized in those cases where we did not find what we were seeking," the DIS deputy chief said.

In one of the homes we searched, Jimenez added, we found steel whips that were presumably to be used during times of agitation. We also verified the presence of an individual who was set free in Honduras through an act of terrorism. Jimenez specified that the individual is a Costa Rican linked to arms trafficking whom the Honduran authorities had to release because a guerrilla group hijacked an airplane belonging to the Servicios Aereos de Honduras (SAHSA). It was in the home of this same man that the authorities seized a large amount of FMLN propaganda, Jimenez said.

The officer warned that the scope of the investigation will be increased, in an attempt to clarify the reports from the inhabitants, who fear that something serious is being planned there. "The people are suspicious of frequent meetings attended by strangers who are linked to extreme leftists in Perez Zeledon," Jimenez said.

COMMUNISTS ALLEGE ANTI-SANDINISTS ACTIVE NEAR BORDER

PA202345 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Costa Rican communist leaders Eduardo Mora Valverde and Arnoldo Ferrero have described as infamous the official accusation that members of the Popular Vanguard Party were involved in setting fire to various buildings in the town of Upala. This is a plot, they said, to conceal the complicity of official sectors with Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries operating in the northern part of Costa Rica on the Nicaraguan border. Mora Valverde and Ferrero said that Costa Rican authorities also want to cover up the repression of civilians living in that border area by the anti-Sandinist groups.

EL SALVADOR

CCE MEMBER ON PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

PA210426 San Salvador LA PRESNA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Aug 83 pp 7, 17

[Excerpts] The new date given by the Central Electoral Council [CCE] for the completion of the electoral registry is 20 January 1984. These elections will shift our country's course toward a climate of peace and democracy.

This information was provided to LA PRENSA GRAFICA by Roberto Meza, a member of the CCE, who said that if the elections are to be held as planned -- meaning with broad electoral guarantees -- they will definitely not take place this year, because 6 months are required to compile the registry.

"Of course, the Council cannot decide the date of the elections," Meza said. "The Constituent Assembly will set the date. If the Assembly decides that the elections will be moved forward, it will be done, but not within the electoral process that we have set for ourselves."

The official reported that the first two contracts have already been signed under which plans made during the past months, when no financial support was available, are beginning to take shape. The first contract is for the purchase of a computer, which should arrive in El Salvador in mid-September, while the other is for the installation of an automatic national emergency system, designed to back up the computer in the event of a power failure.

In the next few days a contract for auditing will also be signed, which will guarantee the proper use of the system by ensuring maximal supervision and control. "Moreover, the computer itself," he said, "which is considered a technically advanced unit in the United States, will be able to report when someone has attempted to misuse it, contrary to the stipulations of the plenary CCE."

Meza added that on Tuesday the government will sign over its $2.05 million share of funding to the CCE, in accord with the provisions of the aid donation agreement. This is in addition to $3.4 million from other sources, which brings the total cost of preparing the elections to $5.45 million.

ISRAEL TO PROVIDE MILITARY, SECURITY AID

PA211650 Buenos Aires SAPORITI in Spanish 1611 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Aug (SAPORITI) -- Israel will soon provide military and security aid to the Salvadoran Government, within the framework of "renewed bilateral ties," military spokesmen have indicated here. They added that Israel is in a position to provide weapons, military and intelligence advisers and instructors, and assistance in the field of agriculture.

According to these sources, Tel Aviv might provide $81 million in military aid to President Alvaro Magana's government this year. They added that Israel provides military and security aid to the Guatemalan regime and, since last year, has been sending weapons and materiel to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups based in Honduras.

VIDES CASANOVA ON CONDECA, GUERRILLAS

PA202300 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Government and Army "look favorably upon" the reactivation of the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA), Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova said today.

The Salvadoran military leader noted that through CONDECA the countries of Central America could receive information, plan joint maneuvers, and oppose communist aggression in the area. He said that Honduras and El Salvador both approve of CONDECA's reactivation, adding, "I think that Guatemala will also have no problem accepting it, inasmuch as CONDECA's permanent headquarters were in Guatemala."

Vides Casanova revealed that during a recent visit to the U.S. aircraft carrier Ranger, which is now off the coast of Central America, he discussed the renewal of CONDECA with Honduran Defense Secretary General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez and Guatemalan President General Oscar Mejia Victores.

Vides Casanova explained that his trip to the aircraft carrier was a courtesy visit and that no military subjects, other than the objectives of the maneuvers and the capabilities of U.S. equipment, were discussed.

On the military situation in El Salvador, Gen Vides Casanova said that "it has improved a great deal, and the fact that a new kind of operation has been implemented does not mean that more problems have developed." "We will pursue the subversives until we finish them off. We have even cancelled leave, because we want to fight the subversives day and night. Their actions are currently limited to simple acts of terrorism; they have not carried out a strong military action in recent months, " Gen Vides Casanova said.

As for the chances of a dialogue between the guerrillas and the government Peace Commission, Vides Casanova said that the government's position is that the leftists must participate in elections. "We can accept no other sort of dialogue, regardless of pressure or circumstances," Defense Minister Vides Casanova added.

Vides Casanova also spoke of the change of government in Guatemala: "We must respect it as the people's sovereign decision, and we think that the measures being taken by General Mejia Victores are the right ones."

He said that the report of a possible exchange of military aid between El Salvador and Guatemala is false, "for El Salvador cannot give away arms and ammunition it has received under an agreement, and Guatemala does not have the capacity to train 24,000 soldiers in antiguerrilla tactics; thus, we cannot ask this of Guatemala."

About the possibility that the reopening of the Israeli Embassy in the country could prompt Israeli military aid for El Salvador, Vides Casanova said "anything is possible."

Defense Minister Vides Casanova made these comments for newsmen following a ceremony commemorating the 205th birthday of Chilean General Bernardo O'Higgins, held at the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military School in San Salvador.

1ST BRIGADE CHIEF DISCUSSES ARMY OPERATIONS

PA210400 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] The search and pursuit operations are being conducted by the Armed Forces are to prevent the logistical resupply of the terrorist groups and to prevent other fighters abroad from joining them, according to Colonel Adolfo Blandon.

Col Blandon, head of the 1st Infantry Brigade, said that the operations have thus far been successful and that the proposed objectives have been very well met; one can see a certain desperation among the ranks of the extremists due to a lack of supplies, medicine, and money, which they had regularly been receiving from Nicaragua and Cuba.

As for the 1st Brigade, also known as the San Carlos Garrison, Col Blandon said that all of his units are currently engaged in combat in various parts of the country, sometimes in combination with other battalions. He cited the Cuscatlan Department and parts of Chalatenango, Cabanas, and La Libertad Departments.

Referring to Guazapa Hill, the Colonel said that the area includes 1,200 square kilometers, and that it is difficult to maintain complete control over so large an area. That is why it has been difficult to dislodge the subversives from that mountainous region, though he said that great progress has been made and that their complete eradication may be achieved in the next few days.

ARMY REPORTS SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS IN MORAZAN

PA192059 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Aug 83 pp 2, 43

[Excerpts] San Miguel -- Guerrilla attacks on Morazan Department have decreased by 70 percent according to Colonel Jorge Adalberto Cruz, chief of the Commando Center in Gotera, who provided this information through a local radio station.

The colonel, who always leads his troops in their various operations, said there is little left to be done in order to rid the convulsed Morazan Department of guerrilla groups. He asserted that, for the time being, the following towns are free of subversives: San Carlos, El Divisadero, Jocoro, Sociedad, Sensembra, Yamabal, Guatajiagua, San Simon, San Isidro, Gualococti, Yoloaiquin, Delicias de Concepcion, Osicals, San Francisco Gotera, and part of Corinto.

Rebel groups can still be found in towns located north of the Torola River, such as San Fernando, Torola, Perquin, Arambala, Joateca, El Rosario, Jocoaitique, and Meanguera.

Colonel Cruz added that the subversives had planned to take over Ciudad Barrios because of the scant resistance offered by the National Guard; therefore, the (?Army's) actions were extended to that sector and many camps were destroyed, dealing blows to the subversives.

There is a general belief, based on the repeated victories of the Armed Forces that Morazan Department will soon be free of subversives.

TOWN OF CACAOPERA RECOVERED FROM REBELS

PA192320 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Communique from Press Committee of the Armed Forces, COPREFA; no date given -- telephone relay from COPREFA offices by unidentified speaker]

[Text] The Armed Forces have rescued the inhabitants of Cacaopera. Following a clash at noon yesterday, troops from the Armed Forced Commando Training Center rescued the inhabitants of Cacaopera from the terrorists, who had been holding them hostage since the night before last.

Nine rebels died during the clash and the rest fled the town in the direction of the Torola River, further north. They took an unspecified number of wounded with them. In addition, three AR-15 rifles and a substantial amount of ammunition were seized. The townspeople thanked the Armed Forces for saving them.

MILITARY REPORTS CLASHES IN SAN VICENTE

PA202152 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2347 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- A Salvadoran Army solider was killed today and three were wounded in a clash with guerrilla columns 60 kms northwest of this capital, military sources have announced.

The fighting took place between the townships of Tejutepeque and Jutiapa, an area considered to be one of the Salvadoran guerrillas' "corridors" for movement through the central part of the country.

The area is located between the slopes of Guazapa Volcano and San Pedro Hill, in the central department of San Vicente. These are the zones in which the Armed Forces have been conducting oeprations for several days.

According to civilian sources in the township of Suchitoto, 44 km north of San Salvador, shooting could be heard throughout the day from the slopes of Guazapa, but no more details were obtained because the Army has banned access to the region.

Meanwhile, official sources reported today that the mayor of La Laguna, in the northern department of Chalatenango, was kidnapped yesterday, presumably by guerrillas. No details were available on this possible kidnapping because telephone communications with La Laguna have been out for several months.

TWO ARENA MAYORS KIDNAPPED IN CHALATENANGO

PA220325 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0025 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] Church authorities and leaders of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, have asked the kidnappers of two ARENA mayors in Chalatenango Department to respect the physical integrity and lives of their captives.

Military sources report that a second mayor -- also a member of ARENA -- was kidnapped by leftists less than 24 hours after the first was kidnapped in Chalantenango Department. Jose Ovidio Fuentes, the major of Concepcion Quezaltepeque, located just 8 km from the city of Chalatenango, was seized by men in civilian clothes who appeared to be guerrillas. Military sources added that he was taken toward northern Chalatenango, where rebel forces are active. He was kidnapped on Saturday morning, a few hours after Jose Porfirio Calles, the mayor of La Laguna and a prominent member of ARENA, which is led by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, was kidnapped by leftists.

The church and members of ARENA have asked the leftist groups to respect the lives of the two mayors.

CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID SAYS 2,800 KILLED IN 1983

PA191950 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, Aug 19 (AFP) -- More than 2,800 civilians not involved in the fighting in El Salvador were executed by the armed forces and "death squads" there duing the first half of 1983, the Christian Legal Aid Organization said here today.

Christian Legal Aid, which is based in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, said the Reagan administration's assertion last month that significant progress had been made in human rights in El Salvador was false.

The humanitarian organization said the first six months of 1983 were marked by considerable growth in "military operations" and "activities of paramilitary groups or death squads" plus "arbitrary detentions and disappearances."

It listed for this time period 554 arbitrary detentions, 324 cases of people missing and many incidents of the forced conscription of young peasants into "military service of indefinite duration and on unconditional terms."

Some 400,000 people, or eight per cent of the population, have been forced to move and 100,000 others to leave the country, Christian Legal Aid said.

(The Geneva-based Intergovernmental Committee for Immigrations, a United Nations organization, said meanwhile it had taken charge of about 450 former Salvadoran prisoners and members of their families who benefited from a recent amnesty in their country.)

RIGHTS GROUP WANTS DISAPPEARANCES INVESTIGATED

PA210412 Paris AFP in English 0407 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador, Aug 21 (AFP) -- More than 3,000 people have "disappeared" in El Salvador since 1979, the independent Salvadoran Human Rights Commission said here Saturday.

It called for an investigation by the government, courts and political parties of El Salvador, saying that all those who "share power share part of the responsibility" for the disappearances.

Several members of the commission were among the missing. They were named as Fernanda Perdomo, Carlos Vides, Dr Roberto Rivas, Patricia Cuellar, her father Mauricio Cuellar, and Paul Villalta. The list of victims also included students, trade union leaders, labourers and peasants.

FMLN'S CIENFUEGOS SAYS U.S. 'PLANNING COUP'

PA201327 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] San Salvador -- Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, a member of the FMLN's National Directorate, has revealed that the United States is planning a coup d'etat in El Salvador.

In a communique distributed in San Salvador, Commander Cienfuegos reports that the Reagan administration is trying to make some changes in the Army in order to give the present government a new image and to pressure it into a dialogue through maneuvers that favor the United States.

The commander emphasized that our front does not accept a coup as a solution to the crisis that currently prevails in the social, economic, political, and military sectors.

Havana on Allegations

PA200234 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] The FMLN has reported that the United States is plotting a coup d'etat in El Salvador as a means of strengthening its war campaign and to negotiate with the guerrillas from a position of strength.

The secret U.S. plan includes the elimination of Salvadoran Army officers who are considered unpopular, the formation of a provisional government made up of acceptable right-wing individuals, and the creation of a multinational force that will presumably guarantee the electoral process.

The Reagan administration gave $3.4 million to El Salvador this week to finance the elections with which it is attempting to improve the regime's image.

At the same time, Israel has decided to reopen its embassy in San Salvador.

Reports say that Israel may provide weapons, advisers, and military instructors, and may extend $81 million in aid to the Salvadoran regime for the remainder of this year.

Meanwhile, according to the Salvadoran Archbishopric's Legal Aid Office, Salvadoran Armed Forces and paramilitary troops have killed more than 2,800 noncombatants in the first half of 1983.

FMLN-FDR CALLS FOR SUSPENSION OF U.S. MANEUVERS

PA192017 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2120 GMT 18 Aug 83

[FMLN-FDR communique relayed by telephone from San Jose, Costa Rica; read by (Mirna Escobar), FMLN-FDR communications representative in Costa Rica; date not given — live or recorded]

[Text] Sources linked to the FMLN-FDR here in San Jose today released the following communique:

The Big Pine II military maneuvers hinder a political solution in El Salvador and Central America. President Reagan has sent a powerful fleet of U.S. warships with a disproportionate component of troops to conduct military maneuvers in Salvadoran territorial waters. These exercises are part of the largest and most prolonged military maneuvers to be carried out by the U.S. Army and Honduran troops in Central America.

This disproportionate display of force is a further step in the intensified U.S. intervention in the area and confirms that the North American head of state is using diplomacy not to build peace but to cover up (?military actions) and wage war, thus indicating that he prefers a military solution to a political one.

Since 1981, the FMLN and FDR of El Salvador have been engaged in efforts to seek a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict. Therefore, it is ridiculous to think that our willingness to engage in dialogue is the result of our alleged fear of threats from the Reagan administration.

On the contrary, this dangerous policy of force is a considerable hindrance to the search for a political solution in El Salvador and the efforts of the Contadora Group governments to achieve peace in the region. Consequently, our fronts join the demands made by the peoples and governments of Latin America and other continents for the suspension of the Big Pine II maneuvers and an immediate withdrawal of the fleet from Central America's territorial waters.

Our fronts are convinced that the Reagan administration's (?decision) to send U.S. forces to Central America does not reflect the will of the North American people who, through various forms of consultation, have called for a political solution to the conflict in Central America and have expressed opposition to President Reagan's intervention in the region.

Finally, the FMLN and FDR reiterate their willingness to work for a negotiated political solution based on a dialogue undertaken without preconditions and expect consistent proof of a similar disposition to engage in negotiations from the U.S. and Salvadoran governments.

[Signed] FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission

GUATEMALA

'YOUNG OFFICERS' CRITICIZE MEJIA, WARN OF NEW COUP

PA191750 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Two radio networks were interfered with this morning between 1020 and 1030 while broadcasting a soccer game between Cuba and Guatemala. Those affected were the Radio Nuevo Mundo Network and the Cadena Azul. Both were covering a soccer match in which Guatemala was participating as part of the Panamerican Games. The signal was being broadcast by TGW.

The interruptions, by a man identifying himself as a member of the Young Officers Movement, occurred at least three times on Cadena Azul, most effectively on the third attempt. It was not so effective on the Radio Nuevo Mundo Network.

The interruptions took place a few minutes apart and the messages were more or less clearly heard. During the interruptions on the two commercial networks, the Young Officers Movement -- ousted from power on 8 August -- criticized the new government of General Mejia Victores.

A communique read by the alleged young officer indicated that the movement is tired of being manipulated, of being sent to die, and of protecting the interests of the rich. The young officers point out: We will raise our rifles against corrupt officers, and a new coup d'etat will be carried out.

This is the second time the so-called young officers have done this: on 9 August, the day after the coup, they interrupted two radio stations in the capital.

MEJIA MEETS DIPLOMATS; REAFFIRMS PLEDGES

PA200157 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, the Guatemalan head of state, yesterday reaffirmed before all the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country his absolute respect for the principles of self-determination of peoples and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

The Guatemalan president told the ambassadors whom he received at the National Palace that, "aware of the grave crisis in Central America, we reiterate our appreciation of the so-called Contadora Group that has been persistently trying for 8 months to find and propose formulas that would not only prevent an intensification of the crisis, but would also help restore the traditional economic and political ties of our brother countries."

However, he added, I would like to stress, as a Guatemalan and a Central American, that the Central Americans alone should make the decisions that will enable us to achieve our objectives. At other points in his message to the ambassadors, Gen Mejia Victores repeated his pledge of unrestricted respect for human rights. He said: The necessary instructions to eliminate the special courts have already been issued, and I can gladly announce that the corresponding decree has also been issued.

Gen Mejia Victores said that the Guatemalan Army is aware of and shares the democratic feelings of its people. That is why we have pledged a return to constitutional government. Therefore, we will promote and facilitate the preliminary process and will guarantee the honesty of the elections.

Regarding the political amnesty, Gen Mejia Victores said: "We have opened our arms to those Guatemalans who, confused and disoriented at the time, chose the path of violence." He added: "I have had the satisfaction of signing the Amnesty Decree, which is broad in scope, to allow those people who are directly or indirectly involved in subversion to take advantage of it, to allow them to return to the tranquillity of their homes and become useful citizens.

Gen Mejia Victores said in conclusion: "Of course we reaffirm at the same time our promise to preserve the ligerty of the Guatemalan people and to provide them with the necessary protection in order to allow the full development of a pluralistic society."

Msgr Oriano Quilici, dean of the diplomatic corps, thanked Gen Mejia Victores on behalf of the group and said that they saw in his message "Your Excellency's determination to implement a government plan to lead Guatemala toward the solution of the problems that currently hamper its regular social and economic development." Msgr Quilici concluded by noting that, on behalf of the ambassadors and commercial attaches present and on his own behalf, he wished Mejia Victores the best. He said: "With the help of God, your praiseworthy effort to bring peace and prosperity to this beautiful land of the quetzal, which offers its traditional hospitality with so much love and nobility, will be brought to fruition."

DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW SENT TO MEJIA VICTORES

PA192000 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] [State Council President] Jorge Serrano has announced that the draft of the new electoral law has a total of 147 articles and an introductory chaper which deals specifically with the mechanisms to elect the national constituent assembly.

The bill may gain the support of the executive branch, since it has been sent to General Mejia Victores for comment. It is basically a procedural law containing general guidelines for the elections to be held in Guatemala.

Members of the commission which drafted the law said they proposed a dual-vote system for a single assembly, so that Guatemalans may elect their representatives at both the district and national levels. In the dual-vote system, political parties will have candidates representing the various electoral districts, as well as candidates at the national level.

Another interesting aspect of the law is that the committees which form political parties will not be permitted to participate in the elections for the national constituent assembly.

MEJIA PROPOSES BAN ON MILITARY CANDIDACIES

PA200408 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] The Defense Ministry can no longer be a springboard for presidential candidacies, as has been the case in the country's recent political past, according to statements made today by General Oscar Mejia Victores, head of state and current defense minister. The head of state hinted that he would propose to the national constituent assembly, once it is installed, that all active military officers and former defense ministers be barred from nomination as presidential candidates, unless, in the case of ministers, they have been out of office for at least 3 years by election day.

Mejia Victores, who took over the Defense Ministry last September and remained in the post after replacing General Efrain Rios Montt as head of state 10 days ago, said this morning that if this prohibition were included in future Guatemalan legislation, it would eliminate manipulation of the Army by political sectors.

General Angel Anibal Guevara, the last military officer proclaimed president-elect by the deposed and dissolved congress, had been defense minister, but did not assume the presidency due to the 1982 coup, which occurred a few days after the election and was defended by the Army's young officers as being necessary because of the alleged electoral fraud.

Mejia Victores' statements were made after a meeting with members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal this morning. Arturo Herbruger Asturias, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, reported the conversation with the head of state.

[Begin Herbruger recording] We made note of the fact that the citizens' registry cannot function until the population registry provides the data necessary for the issuance of identification cards [cedulas], and the authorities responsible for the population registry have announced that they will begin issuing cedulas by mid-September; therefore, the citizens' registry will begin the census of citizens on that date [end recording]

Herbruger referred to the possibility that the dates on the electoral calendar might be moved forward. [Begin Herbruger recording] They could change if we started doing our work more rapidly, so that elections could be held right away. However, this is not certain because, as I have told you, it depends on many factors. But the aim is this: to confirm a schedule as soon as possible. If it is possible to move up the previously scheduled agenda, this would be good. However, if this is not possible, we would use the already established dates. [end recording]

GENERAL ANIBAL GUEVARA DISMISSED FROM ARMY

PA190430 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Excerpt] General Angel Anibal Guevara was dismissed from the Army several days ago, but was not notified until today.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF COMMENTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

Denies Guatemalan-Salvadoran Exercises

PA191645 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, chief of the Army General Staff, said yesterday during the parade commemorating Flag Day that Guatemala certainly needs spare parts for its helicopters, but has no dollars to buy them, only quetzales.

Gen Lopez said it would be premature to assume that the United States will provide the spare parts, requested from U.S. Senator Wilson during his recent meeting with the Guatemalan president. He indicated that helicopters are necessary in the fight against subversion.

Gen Lopez Fuentes categorically denied international reports that the Guatemalan and Salvadoran armies have signed a military pact to fight subversion jointly.

Gen Lopez added that Guatemala has its own military problems, but these are not as serious as those in El Salvador. Therefore, he added, we have no interest in receiving Salvadoran weapons in exchange for Salvadoran territory.

He said in conclusion that there is no tacit agreement among the Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Honduran governments to fight subversion. What does exist among our governments, he concluded, are very good relations.

Army Ready for Guerrillas

PA191650 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpt] General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, chief of the national defense general staff, was interviewed by this station's correspondents in connection with a rumor that the subversive groups will launch a final offensive. His answer:

[Begin Lopez Fuentes recording] I would rather talk about the Army. The Army is in a position to either counteract or prevent such an offensive. I cannot tell you about the guerrillas because, you are right, there are apparently four defined groups, but the news you have given me [words indistinct]. [end recording]

REBEL GROUPS PLAN MEETING TO RECHART STRATEGY

PA200003 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2314 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Panama City, 19 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- The four leading Guatemalan guerrilla groups, which are expecting a new Army offensive, will soon hold a meeting to rechart their fighting plans following General Oscar Mejia Victores' accession to power.

The Guatemalan Labor Party, the Rebel Armed Forces, the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms [ORPA], and the Poor People's Army will meet during the first few days of September.

Sources questioned by ACAN-EFE admitted that the general meeting will also review the internal divisions that have arisen within these groups, and the birth of other new, small guerrilla movements.

The opposition sources confirmed that the high commands of these organizations, which are grouped under the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, have devised plans of action to confront a regime that, according to them, will use "more repressive methods" from now on.

One of the reasons the rebels fear a hardening of positions is that the military will be more free to act against them now that the special courts have been abolished. The sources said that these courts had become a sort of guarantee to the rebels.

In the face of this military offensive, the sources said that new tactics have been adopted, including some methods, such as the use of sharp stakes impregnated with a deadly poison, which were seen during the Vietnam war.

The sources, which said that guerrilla training is carried out under the utmost secrecy, also noted that the first rebel radio station will be on the air next September. They added that their combined strength numbers 70,000 men, rather than the 7,000 the Army has reported.

The Guatemalan guerrillas are constantly receiving military and ideological training and, according to the sources, the propaganda campaign among the population has been improved by the use of new methods.

Outlining the geographic areas where they operate, the sources explained that the Rebel Armed Forces have very broad control in the northern Department of Peten. ORPA's combat fronts are in the southwestern part of Guatemala, in the departments of San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Solola, Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, and Retalhuleu. The Poor People's Guerrilla Army operates in the northwestern departments of El Quiche, Huehuetenango, Alta Verapaz, and Baja Verapaz.

HAVANA INTERVIEWS URNG REPRESENTATIVE

PA211255 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Interview with Andrea Ramirez, member of the URNG representation in Cuba, by Pedro Martinez Pirez; place and date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Andrea, we have invited you to this Radio Havana Cuba interview program to ask your views on the recent coup in your country and, specifically, the impact this coup has had or may have on the political parties in Guatemala.

[Ramirez] We believe this new genocidal regime in Guatemala is a continuation of the Rios Montt regime, with the difference being that they have one less mask, that they are revealing more before national and international public opinion. This regime will not really grant the Guatemalan political parties an important role. It is already apparent in the political electoral process that has been started that the laws are aimed at breaking up and dividing the existing political groups, including those which are rightist, center rightist and even extreme rightist.

This can be further explained. Eight parties existed before the Rios Montt coup. From these parties, which were frozen in March 1982, approximately 28 groups are now willing and determined to register as political parties. What does this mean? That the government itself, the regime itself, the Army itself, have promoted, within the framework of the electoral laws, a set of mechanisms which have divided the parties and broken up the political forces, weakening them in the process.

Of course, this same splintering shows that those parties do not have a political or ideological base, an organizational base or platform of social support -- this is what, in short, makes them vulnerable. We therefore believe that the chance these parties now have -- within a regime that is completely counterinsurgent -- is to play a very minor role, a role solely of political support and not in [word indistinct] to a regime that has already lost its prestige -- whose destiny, in short, is to fall again, as has happened with previous governments.

[Martinez] Andrea, what might this coup mean for the dominant classes in Guatamala?

[Ramirez] Initially, it is possible that the sharp conflicts that have been seen in the last weeks may be put aside; however, this cannot [word indistinct], because it is the dominant class that assumes the greater portion of the cost of this war from the economic standpoint.

This is due not only to the implications arising from the deepening of the country's economic crisis, but from the point of view of the war tax, that the enemy, that this genocidal government, just as the previous one, will attempt to extract from that dominant class.

Last year they gave the first installment. We know who resisted a little and who gladly contributed, but as has happened on other occasions, this money has ended up in the garbage. The dominant class is increasingly aware of this. There is not enough money to win a war against the people, because the cost of war carries ever-increasing implications for them, a cost that will be increasingly high, especially if we recall the fact that this criminal government also plans to extend the aggression to Central America.

This means that they will not only have to assume the cost of a war in the country but a war in Central America, which -- as has been seen in the past -- responds to the interests of U.S. imperialism and its current Reagan administration. Guatemalan rightist political forces know this; the dominant class knows that especially during an electoral and pre-electoral period like that going on at this time, these U.S. forces do not take the interests of the dominant classes into account, but only their own. This means that they will transfer the greatest possible political and economic cost onto the dominant class, which will definitely have to pay.

MILITIA KILLS 3 ATTACKING SUCHITEPEQUEZ FARM

PA191855 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Unidentified men armed with weapons of various calibers and wearing woolen head coverings died in an attack on the (MOCA) farm in (Jicacao) jurisdiction, Suchitepequez, according to initial reports reaching our correspondent in (Guatepeque), Roberto Espinoza Perez.

The reports indicate that members of the local Civil Defense confronted the attackers, killing three of them. They could not be identified, since they had no identity papers. The bodies were sent to the Mazatenango Hospital morgue for autopsy.

EIGHT DIE IN ARMED CLASHES IN WESTERN ZONE

PA211840 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1444 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Six guerrillas and two members of the civilian self-defense patrols died in the last few hours in Guatemala in two armed clashes in the western part of the country, a military source announced today.

According to the source, four insurgents died in an armed clash with military patrols in Usantan, El Quiche, west of this capital. The source added that two other rebels were killed by civilian self-defense patrols in the area known as El Rancho, in El Quiche department. Two members of the civilian patrols also died in this action.

Police also announced that businessman Luis Felipe Valenzuela, who was kidnapped almost 2 months ago, has been released by his kidnappers. Valenzuela was kidnapped in late June in similar fashion to young industrialist Julio Lowenthal, who was found dead last week.

HAVANA ON ARMY CASUALTIES IN 19 JULY CLASHES

PA210326 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Commandos from ORPA [Armed People's Revolutionary Organization] in Guatemala inflicted 61 casualties on the Army in four operations that were staged in mid-July in the capital city of that Central American country.

A rebel bulletin that was issued in San Jose, Costa Rica, said that these operations, which took place on 19 July, consisted of two ambushes of military vehicles and of attacks on police headquarters in Santa Luisa and Bethania, in Guatemala City.

ORPA, together, with the Rebel Armed Forces, the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, and the Guatemalan Labor Party, which is the leadership center, comprise the URNG.

HAVANA CITES ARMY REPORT ON GUERRILLA DEATHS

PA211752 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] The Guatemalan Army's Public Relations Office has reported that seven guerrillas died in clashes with soldiers in various places in Guatemala. However, the office gave no information on Army casualties.

According to an official report, the first clash took place in the Guatemalan locality of (Pancaj), El Quiche Department, where six guerrillas died. The other clash took place in (El Achua), Alta Verapaz Department, where another rebel died, says the bulletin.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING

PA201415 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] What topics will be discussed at the Contadora meeting to be held in Panama 25-26 August? What subjects will be discussed by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica and Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade in their meeting in Tegucigalpa on Monday? Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica talks about these and other topics. Here are his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] The third meeting of Central American foreign ministers with their Contadora Group counterparts was held at the end of July. It was decided then that the fourth meeting would be held 24-25 August. We received the formal invitation a few days ago from Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado, and we have confirmed that we will attend the meeting. We hope that the multilateral discussions will produce effective results. We will analyze the proposal that the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala presented in the previous meeting. The proposal contains solid foundations for the development of an overall and regional agenda that will lead to a lasting peace in El Salvador. We will also analyze a unilateral proposal presented by the Nicaraguan Government. We have already studied the proposal and we will express our views on it at the meeting. We will also be working within the framework of the Cancun Declaration issued by the four Contadora Group presidents.

[Unidentified reporter] Some international news reports indicate that the new Guatemalan Government will be an obstacle at the Contadora meeting. What do you think, Mr Foreign Secretary?

[Paz Barnica] When the new government of General Oscar Mejia assumed power, he made some statements regarding the Contadora Group. We have subsequently learned that the Guatemalan Government has stated that these statements were misinterpreted or distorted. The new Guatemalan foreign minister, who took office 2 days ago, has made a clear statement about continuing to work within the framework of the Contadora Group in order to achieve peace through dialogue. Yesterday, the Honduran press published remarks by Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado, who stressed that the Guatemalan foreign minister's remarks were positive.

The Guatemalan foreign minister will visit Tegucigalpa on Monday at 0800 to meet with me. He will be visiting Honduras for about 3 hours, since he will also be traveling to El Salvador and Costa Rica. It will be a good occasion to meet him and to analyze the Central American situation, as well as to discuss the various viewpoints on joint action to achieve a stable Central American peace within an overall and regional context.

[Reporter] Will Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova participate in this meeting with the Guatemalan foreign minister?

[Paz Barnica] No, he is coming to meet with the Honduran foreign secretary, to exchange views with me. The president is resting, even though he is clearly improving. The Guatemalan foreign minister's visit will be very brief. He will be here 2 or 3 hours, and he will meet with me.

[Reporter] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has said that the specter of war in Central America has been reduced thanks to the Contadora efforts. What do you think?

[Paz Barnica] I think several factors have contributed to promoting a climate of detente in Central America. One of the essential objectives of the Contadora Group is precisely that: to achieve an easing of tensions favorable for understanding and responsible negotiations. I think the situation has improved and there is a climate of detente which has been encouraged by the Contadora Group's efforts.

[Reporter] What can you report about the U.S. defense secretary's visit to Central America?

[Paz Barnica] U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is expected in Honduras in the first 2 weeks of September. He will be received in Honduras as a high-ranking official of a friendly country. [end recording]

HAVANA REPORTS GOVERNMENT EXPELS 2 UNHCR OBSERVERS

PA192342 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The Salvadoran news agency SALPRESS has reported that the Honduran regime expelled two observers of the UN High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, posted on the Salvadoran border. The source said the incident took place when the Salvadoran Army launched counterinsurgent operation in the border department of Chalatenango.

The source added that the operation could be linked with a possible deployment of Honduran troops toward the part of Salvadoran territory.

The task of the two expelled officials was to receive and attend to Salvadoran refugees in the communities of Guarita and La Virtud, in the Honduran department of Lempira.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA SAYS TALKS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN 'POSITIVE'

PA190237 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] The meeting between U.S. lawmakers Edward Kennedy [as heard], Edward Markey, Frank Harrison, Thomas Carter, and Frederick Boucher with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Government Junta, was described by the revolutionary leader as very positive within the context of the search for normal relations between Nicaragua and the United States. Commander Ortega said:

[Begin recording] The talk I held with the gentlemen has been excellent. We find in them a disposition, a willingness, to work for rapprochement among our peoples, for rapprochement between the U.S. and Nicaraguan Governments in order to stave off war and bring peace to Central America, to increase the chances of reaching an understanding and improving relations between the United States and Nicaragua. [end recording]

The U.S. congressmen said that when they return to the United States they will continue to oppose the Reagan administration's warlike policy on Central America and the supplying of economic and military aid and war materiel to the counterrevolutionary groups composed of Somozist guardsmen.

BORGE WANTS DEBATE WITH KISSINGER 'ON ANY SUBJECT'

PA212148 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2039 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 21 Aug (DPA) -- Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge has said in Managua that he is willing to hold a television debate with Henry Kissinger "on any subject he wants."

"Our weapon is the truth. We are not afraid to hold a discussion with anyone," said the FSLN National Directorate member when interviewed by local journalists.

News reports from Washington have revealed that Kissinger, president of the bipartisan commission, postponed his trip to Central America until next November because of the naval maneuvers being carried out by the United States in Central American waters.

In turn, Commander Tomas Borge Martinez was forced to postpone a trip to the United States 2 months ago, after being invited by several universities, because the U.S. Embassy in Managua did not grant him an entry visa.

RUIZ REVIEWS TALKS WITH MEXICO ON OIL IMPORTS

PA202020 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1921 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 20 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Planning Minister Commander Henry Ruiz today announced that Mexico's supply of petroleum to Nicaragua "is assured."

Ruiz traveled to Mexico with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to hold talks with President Miguel de la Madrid and Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda during a visit that was described as "routine, normal, and important."

The planning minister said that in the talks with President de la Madrid an agreement was reached regarding Nicaragua's debt for the import of Mexican petroleum. Ruiz said that the agreement was reached in accordance with the San Jose agreement -- extended on 3 August -- and internationally accepted financial formulas.

The minister stressed that the Sandinist government "is not disclosing" the amount of its debt for Mexican petroleum imports. According to Ruiz, the Mexican Government granted terms and facilities so Nicaragua can pay its petroleum debt in accordance with its possibilities. He added that President de la Madrid gave them a report on the talks he held with President Ronald Reagan on 14 August.

Ruiz said that in Mexico's high-ranking circles there is concern about the current Central American situation but also optimism about the possibility of finding a negotiated solution to the region's crisis.

The minister said that the Mexican optimism is based on the flexibility and high degree of responsibility of the Nicaraguan Government's foreign policy. According to Ruiz, the Mexican president also noted that "the Nicaraguan people are not intimidated by the aggressions they suffer."

The Nicaraguan ministers traveled to and from Mexico aboard an airplane provided by the Miguel de la Madrid government.

Ruiz and D'Escoto were welcomed by Government Junta Coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega at Managua's Sandino Airport.

NUNEZ ON ELECTIONS, COMPARING U.S., USSR PRESENCE

PA210136 Paris AFP in Spanish 0355 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 19 Aug (AFP) -- Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan State Council, declared that the FSLN will receive massive support in the elections scheduled for 1985, "because the masses are on the side of those who have liberated them."

In an interview published by PATRIA LIBRE magazine, Nunez stated that "rightist parties want the elections moved forward, even though they know that they will be defeated, because they are nothing more than an echo of the U.S. State Department."

Nunez said that the "campaign" for elections in 1984 is an excuse for Washington and its allies to attack the revolution, "for what they want to do is to destroy it." He stated that some organizations friendly toward Nicaragua, such as the Socialist International, the Christian Democrats, and the Liberal International, have suggested moving the elections up, but the motives for these recommendations are "very different from those of Washington."

The president of the Nicaraguan legislative body -- which approved the bill on political parties this week -- said that a campaign could be waged to convince the U.S. people to help in financing the elections.

Nine parties will be able to participate in the event, which is scheduled for 2 years from now: the FSLN, the Popular Social Christian Party, the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, and the Conservative Liberal Party (all currently merged in the Revolutionary Patriotic Front), as well as the opposing Social Democrats, Social Christians, the Comminust Party, the Democratic Conservative Party, and the Conservative Liberal Party [as received].

Nunez announced that a State Council delegation will shortly visit the United States and Canada to familiarize itself with those countries' electoral systems, as has already been done in several Latin American and European nations.

Meanwhile, the Sandinist leader rejected any sort of pressure on the revolutionary process that was begun on 19 July 1979, saying that Nicaragua is defending "not only the Sandinist revolution, but the dignity of the entire continent, which is facing an irrational, abusive, and arrogant force -- namely, U.S. imperialism."

In comparing the arrival of Soviet ships at Nicaraguan ports and the presence of U.S. vessels in Central American waters, he said that "there is a great difference," because "the USSR is upholding and complying with its commitments to and international agreements with our country, while the U.S. ships and carriers come to intimidate us and not to uphold any formulas of cooperation with Nicaragua."

Havana Cites Nunez Remarks

PA210443 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Commander Carlos Nunez, the Nicaraguan State Council president, has said that the sooner elections are held in his country, the greater the defeat of the rightist opposition parties will be.

He rejected the demands of some internal groups, supported from abroad, that the electoral process, scheduled for 1985, be moved forward. Nunez said that this attitude is nothing more than a resounding echo of the U.S. State Department. He also said that the rightist parties themselves are unsure about their demands, because advancing the elections would mean their immediate defeat. Nunez said that the FSLN is completely convinced that it will win the elections, which he said are being held to comply with international commitments made during the anti-Somozist war. On the domestic level, he said, they represent another weapon in our struggle against imperialism.

BRITISH GROUP 'IMPRESSED' WITH SANDINIST PROCESS

PA191840 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Deputy (Jeremy Corbin) of the British Labor Party said that he was impressed with the way the State Council discussed and approved the Nicaraguan political parties law. (Corbin) is a member of a British delegation of professional and religious personalities who visited our country for 2 weeks to learn about the advances of the revolutionary process.

The British parliamentarian noted that the law approved by the State Council actually strengthens the democratic regime already existing in the country. It is satisfying to see the advance of this process, despite the aggressive situation confronting Nicaragua. We are impressed with the democratic methods applied at the State Council by the members of the government and the political parties, (Corbin) concluded.

ORTEGA CAUTIONS AGAINST EXPECTING FOREIGN AID

PA191530 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Excerpts] In a last-minute report, the Defense Ministry has announced that the 10 militia members killed in an ambush in the (Sirilaya) sector, 12 km from Sandy Bay Pisri in central Zelaya, were attacked by a group of over 100 Somozist counterrevolutionaries coming from Honduran territory.

Captain Roberto Sanchez, public relations officer of the People's Sandinist Army, EPS, pointed out that the bodies of these courageous militiamen will be carried to Managua today for posthumous honors and later turned over to their relatives for burial.

The FSLN national leadership and the EPS General Command have recognized the heroism of the militias of San Rafael del Norte and of the 13-year-old child (Lucas) who, showing courage and patriotism, picked up a weapon to defend his fatherland and the revolutionary cause. This statement was made yesterday by Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega, chief of the People's Militias, as he presented the Gold Medal for Compliance With Duty to the militia battalion of San Rafael del Norte.

He said that with the courage and blood of the Nicaraguans, we are defeating the counterrevolution. The people of Nicaragua will meet, with weapons in hand, any superior aggression from the Hondurans, the reactionaries of the area, and the imperialists themselves, he noted. It is true, he added, that we have confidence in the solidarity of other nations, but we cannot expect their armies, governments, and forces to come to our aid in the event of aggression. We will have to meet and defeat any such aggression with the determination anc courage of our workers and peasants.

CONDECA REACTIVATION SEEN AS ATTACK ON SANDINISTS

PA190333 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Honduras intends to gather together Central American defense ministers to propose the reactivation of the Central American Defense Council, CONDECA, while it prepares several proposals for the Kissinger commission.

Honduran Defense Secretary Colonel Amilcar Castillo Suazo has reported that his government intends to reactivate CONDECA because any alliance among countries that want to fight communism must be seen positively. In view of these remarks, it is obvious that their only goal in reviving CONDECA, which died when Somoza was ousted, is to attack the Sandinist people's revolution.

OPPOSITION JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON GOALS RIDICULED

PA191835 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Aug 83

["Special Chronicle" by Eligio Alvarez Montalban: "A Brainchild of the Caves of the Pentagon"]

[Text] An EFE dispatch datelined Washington, 16 August, disclosed that, after 3 weeks of negotiations in an effort to find points of agreement, the four main groups that oppose the Sandinist government issued a joint communique stressing that their goal is to establish a democracy in Nicaragua.

Without attempting another analysis or more thorough commentary of the weak, contradictory, and antihistorical arguments of this hefty policial tome -- a true brainchild of the caves of the Pentagon -- we will devote our time only to those who signed the document. We will discuss what they represent, their backgrounds, who is behind them, and why these straw men had to sign the thick document instead of its being signed by the sharks who are suspiciously hiding behind an honest front.

Let us see: What are Edgardo Lacayo, who appears as FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] representative; Edgardo Macias, who appears as ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] standard bearer; Adriana Guillen, who is the MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity] agent; and a fellow known as Cesar Gaitan, who displays his illustrious anonymity as representative of a so-called UTRANI [expansion unknown]?

Lacayo is true to his name: a lackey of families that came down in the world ["lacayo" means lackey in Spanish]. Macias is a cheap traitor who betrayed his class and his homeland. He sold himself for the gold of the empire when he was very young. Guillen -- who is Guillen? All we have to say is that she increased her reactionary appetities when she worked at LA PRENSA. Poor Gaitan, it is not even worth bothering with him.

Why did the FDN big shots, the Enriques Bermudez', not sign the communique? Why did Adolfo Calero Portocarrero not sign? Why did Alfonso Robelo and Cain [Eden Pastora] hide?

If they do not answer this, the Nicaraguan people have already answered them in San Rafael del Norte and will continue to answer them until they sink into history's dungheap or into the cemetery, if they dare show up again.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS WEEKLY COMBAT CASUALTIES

PA211925 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 21 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 21 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Subcommander Roberto Sanchez, Defense Ministry official spokesman, today reported that a total of 24 anti-Sandinists and approximately 20 members of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, had died in combat this week.

Sanchez said that since Sunday the counterrevolutionaries have been attacking in the zone of Sirilaya and La Tronquera in northern Zelaya Department and in Danto and El Pijibay in southern Zelaya Department, on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua.

Sanchez said that some clashes "have lasted up to 24 hours" and that military actions were continuing. He mentioned the fact that Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega "had talked about another invasion by the counterrevolutionaries operating from Honduras, supported by the Honduran Army, with CIA assistance and the Reagan administration's approval and financing."

Sanchez added that "the counterrevolutionaries have not been able to advance and consolidate their position in Nicaraguan territory, which is their military objective," because the Nicaraguan people are showing their fighting spirit and making effective the slogan, "Free Fatherland or Death."

According to Sanchez, fighting was continuing yesterday afternoon between EPS and anti-andinist contingents, "which will continue until the U.S. Government stops giving economic aid through the CIA to the various counterrevolutionary groups."

Sanchez said that the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance, ARDE, which is led by Eden Pastora, is attacking in the southern zone of Zelaya Department and that ARDE contingents are moving in good boats [as received] in which, after they attack us, "they go back to Costa Rica."

Subcommander Sanchez said that the bodies of the nine [as heard] militiamen killed Wednesday will be handed over today to their families in Masaya, 30 km from Managua.

Sanchez added that "the recovery of the bodies was difficult" because Sandy Bay Sirpi and the Central part of Zelaya Department is too far from populated areas, and it took 4 days by foot to bring out their bodies.

He said that some of the 20 victims were members of the FSLN and Sandinist youth, among them 2nd Lieutenant Marlon Jerez Villanueva from Managua, who was on military service in southern Zelaya Department, some 250 km from Managua.

ARDE COMMAND REPORTS SUCCESSFUL ACTIONS IN AUGUST

PA200339 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2249 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 19 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- A report issued by the headquarters of the Democratic Revolutionary alliance (ARDE), the Nicaraguan opposition alliance, lists the actions that have been carried out by the columns led by Eden Pastora (Commander Cero) in southern Nicaragua in August.

On 5 August the Raymundo Diaz Jiron Column led by Marino clashed with special troops of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry in Jose Bravo, Nueva Guinea. According to reports received by ACAN-EFE, two government soldiers were killed and five wounded, while the rebels suffered no casualties.

On 9 August, near La Azucena, ARDE forces were ambushed by a Sandinist People's Army [EPS] platoon, but avoided encirclement without suffering any losses, the rebel headquarters reported.

According to the same source, the same EPS platoon had to engage an ARDE squad that went to the rescue of the ambushed forces. The guerrillas captured a soldier by the name of Nieves Oporta, "who could not demonstrate that he was Nicaraguan and was therefore summarily tried." The soldier confessed that he had killed five peasants and burned several huts, and was therefore executed by area residents.

ARDE headquarters claims that 25 casualties were inflicted on the Nicaraguan Government during the ambush and the ensuing battle.

CASTRO SEES NO CHANGE IN U.S. C.A. POLICY

PA192230 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 18 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] There is virtually no honest government in the world which hasn't raised its voice to demand a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis. Latin America and the Caribbean -- except for bloodthirsty and submissive regimes in power thanks to U.S. military and economic assistance -- are demanding the beginning of negotiations to put an end to war in the region.

Almost all European governments have made a similar request. Voices have also been raised in Asia and Africa to demand a peaceful settlement for the politico-military differences in Central America; however, the main culprit in the area crisis -- the United States -- has remained deaf to the demands of the international community.

In truth, Washington has only made ambiguous statements and is maintaining a frankly hostile attitude regarding the solution to the conflicts. The U.S. Government, which boasts of being a consistent defender of democracy and human rights, has taken no steps to indicate it is receptive to these demands. On the contrary, its actions in no way contribute to solving Central American problems.

The Contadora Group has been involved since January in commendable efforts for a political settlement of the regional crisis. The Nicaraguan revolutionary government has also expressed a desire to sincerely contribute to that end. More recently, Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, told U.S. reporters in Havana that Cuba is willing to assist any efforts to find solutions to the Central American conflict. But he warned that this conflict will not be solved if the United States refuses to sit at the negotiating table with a constructive attitude and a spirit of good will.

Things haven't changed much since then. This week, banks of former Somozist guardsmen, trained, armed, and financed by Washington, killed 15 innocent Nicaraguans in Jinotega Department.

An unceasing airlift between the United States and Honduran airports has continued. U.S. Air Force planes are unloading all kinds of military supplies at these airports. These supplies are to be used in the joint maneuvers that the Washington and Tegucigalpa governments have been carrying out since 4 August.

French reporters who accompanied External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson on his recent visit to Havana asked top Cuban leader Fidel Castro if there had been any change in the U.S. policy for Central America in the last few days. Castro said that there have been certain changes in the tone of U.S. leaders; changes in rhetoric. But in actions, the policy remains the same: the continuation of military maneuvers in Honduras, the sending of two aircraft carriers and 17 warships to Central American coasts near Nicaragua, and the announcement that these mock exercises will last until January, February, or March. Therefore, Fidel said, there has been no change in U.S. policy. It is a situation of force, pressure, and psychological warfare. He also said he is convinced that U.S. leaders have reached the conclusion that Nicaraguan and Cuban statements are a result of this policy of force carried out by Washington. I believe this is a big mistake, he added. We, Castro stressed, are talking about a dignified and honorable solution based on mutual commitments. This is the only solution. Solutions based on capitulations cannot be expected.

U.S. ACCUSED OF 'AIRCRAFT CARRIER DIPLOMACY'

PA220404 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government continues to stoke the fire in Central America. Far from decreasing its military presence in the region, Washington has been increasing it gradually under the pretext of the Big Pine II military maneuvers that it is carrying out jointly with Honduras.

It is known that these military exercises, which are to last up to 6 months, are the first step toward strengthening the U.S. military presence in Central America that the Pentagon wants to establish permanently. The objectives are quite clear: to continue to harass the new Nicaragua militarily and to give direct support to the brutal Guatemalan and Salvadoran regimes' counterinsurgency struggle. The United States also plans to establish a permanent military base in Central America that will serve as a bridge for a possible attack on Cuba, Grenada, and other independent countries of the region.

Honduras has been chosen by the Reagan government to serve as a huge military camp for offensive objectives. An advance group of 800 U.S. soldiers has arrived in the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula, located about 200 km from Tegucigalpa, the capital. This contingent is a part of the 5,000 troops that will participate in the Big Pine II maneuvers, which began in Honduras on 4 August. Pentagon sources have said that the air bridge established for transferring U.S. military supplies to Honduras will end soon. The military exercises will reach their peak in October and November, when all of the U.S. troops are in Honduras and Honduras has placed 6,000 soldiers of its own on a war footing.

As has been reported, the joint U.S.-Honduran exercises will have three phases: The first phase, which is already underway, includes the deployment of artillery and infantry forces. The second will consist of amphibious operations. The last phase, which is scheduled for early 1984, will be devoted to aerial exercises in which both airplanes and helicopters will participate.

The huge C-141 U.S. Air Force airplanes will continue to transport communications equipment, field tents, hospitals, and military supplies to San Pedro Sula. The aircraft carrier Coral Sea and four other U.S. warships have already arrived in Caribbean waters near the Central American coast to take part in the war games. The Coral Sea is carrying some 70 combat planes, including F-4 fighters, A-6 and A-7 attack planes, S-3 anti-submarine aircraft, and E-2 reconnaissance planes. The four U.S. Navy ships sent by Reagan to the Caribbean are the guided missile destroyers Dahlgren and Conyngham and the frigates Trippe and (?Beary).

As can be seen, the current U.S. Government is trying to turn back history and to impose its old gunboat policy on Latin America and the Caribbean. The peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and other countries of the region have felt the effects of that policy. The only difference is that gunboats are not being used right now. Instead, aircraft carriers, supersonic planes, and other sophisticated armament from the Pentagon's arsenal are now being used in Latin American and Caribbean waters. However, the point is the same: The United States wants to impose its policy of force, believing that the whole world falls within its vital interests. As some news media are saying, Ronald Reagan will go down in history as the U.S. President who replaced the old gunboat diplomacy with one that occupies an even more dangerous rung in the escalation of aggression: aircraft carrier diplomacy.

U.S. MEDIA ALLEGEDLY MANIPULATED BY CIA

FL191531 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Foreign News Commentary by Roberto Agudo]

[Excerpts] This report shows how imperialism and its propaganda media organize campaigns and create situations to try to cause difficulties in the already deteriorated relations between some countries. This case concerns the United States and the Soviet Union: Two or three days ago, different U.S. news media began to say that the son of a diplomat in the Soviet Embassy in Washington wanted to stay in the United States and that he had even written a letter to President Reagan. This turned out to be a hoax, a lie, but they continued to insist because it seems that, after they invent the lies, they begin to believe them until the violent clash with reality brings out the truth. This happened in spite of the fact that the Soviet Embassy in Washington gave appropriate explanations when this campaign began.

Here you see the youth that they claimed wanted to stay there. This morning he arrived in Paris on his way back to the Soviet Union. He had gone to the United States to spend a vacation with his parents. It appears that the journalists...[changes thought] This was a plan organized by the CIA to try to create more tension and take advantage of certain situations. As you can see, this 16-year old youth is acting normally. Not satisfied with this, the Soviet Embassy itself held a news conference for the youth to talk with the newsmen.

As you can see, he said that he never wrote any letter to the president or to anyone else. The journalists insist, asking whether he wrote a letter. He says no. The journalist insists, did you write any letters? No, none. The youth explains that the letter is forged and that his name was written incorrectly.

VIETNAM'S NGUYEN CO THACH SCORES U.S., PRC

FL201615 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1325 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Text] Havana, 20 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Vietnamese Foregin Minister Nguyen Co Thach, on an official visit to this country, said today that if the United States intervenes in Central America it will suffer a defeat several times worse than it suffered in Vietnam. After condemning the U.S. policy of aggression and intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, the Vietnamese foreign minister said Washington must face the facts because the present situation is not the same as the situation which prevailed during the U.S.-Vietnamese war.

The Vietnamese foreign minister arrived in Havana last Tuesday at the invitation of his Cuban colleague Isidoro Malmierca, with whom he has already met on three separate occasions. He has also met with the leaders of the Central Planning Board and the State Committees for Economic Cooperation and Science and Technology.

He said that his talks with Cuban authorities had contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations and to the cause of the Cuban-Vietnamese common struggle at the world level. Co Thach also condemned China for its hegemonic and expansionist policies against Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea. He accused the PRC of provoking tensions in Southeast Asia. Referring to the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, he said that withdrawal of those volunteers would continue gradually, which demonstrated that the situation in Kampuchea was becoming more and more stable.

RIZO ALVAREZ HEADS MISSION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FL191803 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the Central Committee Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, was received today by Joseph Haman, candidate-member of the Presidium and secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee. The two leaders examined the complex international situation, especially the Central American situation, which has worsened due to U.S. policy in the region.

DELEGATION DEPARTS CONGO AFTER ANNIVERSARY FETE

FL191807 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] Xavier Katali, member of the politburo of the Congolese Labor Party and interior minister, bade farewell to the Cuban delegation that attended the festivities for the 20th anniversary of the revolution. The delegation, presided over by Armando Acosta, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, had been received by Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. International and bilateral affairs were discussed at the meeting, which was held in a warm atmosphere of friendship.

ANDROPOV STATEMENT TO U.S. LEGISLATORS CITED

PA191200 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Aug 83

[Text] Top Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov has announced in Moscow that his country undertakes the commitment not to be the first to install an antisatellite weapon in space.

During an interview at the Kremlin with a group of U.S. senators, Andropov stressed that this decision, of exceptional importance, is equivalent to a unilateral moratorium on this type of launching, which the USSR will observe strictly as long as other countries, the United States included, abstain from deploying such weapons in space.

In his talk with the U.S. legislators, Andropov stressed that Soviet relations with the United States are tense in almost all spheres and, if this is happening, it is not because of the attitude of the Soviet side. The Soviet Union, he stressed, would like to have a level of harmony with the United States that would ensure normal, good, and stable relations for the good of both nations and peace in the world.

The CPSU secretary general added that the deployment in Western Europe of U.S. nuclear Pershing and cruise missiles will have long range consequences that will also affect the United States. North Americans, he said, will feel the difference between the situation that existed up to the deployment of the missiles and that which will be created when the missiles are deployed. We would not advise anyone to think that he can succeed in getting the Soviet Union to make unilateral concessions or to remain impassive in the face of actions that harm its security interests, Andropov stressed. The Soviet chief of state asked for the elimination of conflicts in the world through mutually acceptable peaceful solutions, and reiterated the USSR's support for the member countries of the Contadora Group and for Cuba's and Nicaragua's initiatives to achieve peace in Central America in this respect.

GOVERNMENT BANS ANTI-CUBAN RADIO PROGRAMS

FL191630 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 0450 GMT 19 Aug 83

[Text] The General Directorate of Telecommunications [DGT] yesterday prohibited this station, Radio Clarin, from continuing to broadcast the programs of CID [Democratic and Independent Cuba] Publications Incorporated on the international frequency of 11700 kHz, 25.64-meter band, and of any other program which may be aimed at criticizing any other country or foreign government.

The order was contained in official communication No 5,131 and signed by the director general of telecommunications, (Miguel Peguero Calzada). It was delivered this afternoon to Dr (Virgilio Troncoso), vice president of Hemisferio Broadcasting Incorporated.

The DGT said it would watch closely for compliance with the order and ordered Radio Clarin not to use unauthorized frequencies and not to persist in deviating from the legally authorized frequencies, an unusual request since our company has never violated any standing regulation on telecommunications. The DGT's arbitrary order prompted Dr (Troncoso) to send the following letter to the DGT:

18 August 1983; Mr (Miguel Peguero Calzada), director general of telecommunications, address and city; Mr Director General; we hereby inform you that on this date, pursuant to the instructions contained in your letter No 5,131, dated today, we are suspending the programs we had been broadcasting on 11700 kHz, international band of 25.64 meters, for CID Publications Incorporated which were covered by a contract with the commercial enterprise, duly registered in this country.

The measure ordered by your directorate, allegedly based on Article 140 of Telecommunications Law No 118, dated 1 February 1966, clearly (?violates) freedom of speech and dissemination of thought, and constitutes an attack on the provisions of Paragraph 6, Article 8 of the Constitution of the republic, which states, and we quote: All persons may freely convey their thoughts through the written word or by any other graphic or oral means without prior censorship.

The programs broadcast for CID Publications Incorporated through this radio station in no way offend the dignity, morality, tranquillity, or customs of our society, nor can they be considered subversive or inciting people to violate the law.

The fact that these programs criticize the Marxist-Leninist tyranny, which has shamefully enslaved the Cuban people for the last 24 years, can only serve as a weak argument, under a democratic system such as ours, to attack one of the main human rights -- freedom of speech. It also harms the feeling of solidarity which we Dominicans have with the Cuban people because, during the darkest hours of the cruel Trujillo tyranny, it was they who by word and deed gave firm support to the cause of freedom for the Dominican Republic.

At a time when the world finds itself in an ideological confrontation between democratic and Christian forces led by the United States of America and the totalitarian and atheistic Marxist-Leninist forces led by the Soviet Union -- of which the Fidel Castro regime is only a simple pawn -- we do ourselves a (?very poor) service when a democratic radio station such as ours is prohibited from broadcasting any program critical of an autocratic government such as Fidel Castro's.

Moreover, we want to draw special attention to the fact that we firmly reject the content of the second paragraph of your letter No 5,131, dated yesterday [as heard], which orders us to refrain from using unauthorized frequencies and not to persist in deviating from authorized frequencies, since we have never resorted to use of frequencies other than our own, or deviated from our limits within the broadcast bands.

We consider the implied threat that the DGT will watch closely for compliance with the orders contained in your letter to be gratuitous and unnecessary since Hemisferio Broadcasting Incorporated, Radio Clarin, has up to now -- in the past, and will in the future -- always obeyed the legal principles promulgated by the state of the Dominican Republic pursuant to orders issued by legally constituted authority.

Sincerely,

[Signed] Dr (Virgilio Troncoso), vice president.